

SEVEN DAYS



30

Everyone agrees the Burlington School District has a race problem. Now what?

Color Bind

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

PAYING FOR SEX ED

Bristol tutors high-risk teens

PAGE 16

CLIFF NOTES

Reggae superstar at Jazz Fest

PAGE 22

UN-COMMON MAN

New cuisine in the Valley

PAGE 44

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Race Time

Everything went for a few minutes, but came back to earth in a different way. Staff writer Paul Winters covered three campaign fact-fests in the last week on 401. The Seven Days staff blog, *Heard*, noted that former transportation secretary David Dill is running for a Northwest Kingdom state senate seat. Former Progressive Party representative David Buckman announced his candidacy for a Chittenden County Senate seat, and Attorney General Bill Sorrell announced that he's running for reelection.



Looking for the on-air king of politics?
 Progressive Local Matters is up to it.

Sorrell, a Democrat, was first appointed to his post by former governor Howard Dean and hasn't had a serious opponent in 10 years. But he's facing a primary challenge from Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan this time around, and he's stepping up his game.

He'll be backed up from Monday's blog post "At Redaction Launch, Attorney General Bill Sorrell Dubs OTT the 'Bucking Horse'".

Starting at a podium in the Statehouse ornate Cedar Creek Room wearing a dark suit and blue tie, Attorney General Bill Sorrell belted over the county's ambient Wednesday afternoon. As four dozen severely disoriented attorney types looked on approvingly, the state's top law enforcement officer launched his campaign for reelection.

Only this time something was different. "Have you ever had a drink of a stool?" before? Burlington Free Press reported this. He asked Sorrell if he was looking for "the best way to not come back?" "Not being a doctor of the media, of course."

Told him at least one or two others that were openly asked by the media, "the AG responded with a laugh, 'So welcome to all of you!'"

He'll be covering all of the fact-fests and press conferences he can in the next few months. See his updates at www.govt.vt.gov and this week, in *Fact Game* on page 12.

facing facts



FEELING JAZZED

Despite some heavy weather this morning, the weekend of this year's Discover Jazz Festival again turned Burlington into a musical paradise.



BAND PRESSURE

The Burlington Free Press gave former jazz musician Bill Sorrell a "B" grade. The paper's review of the event was "a good one, but not a great one."



TRAGEDY IN EYES

Police say an Essex man killed an alleged nighttime burglar last week. Every homeowner's worst nightmare.



RELAX, MA VINTAGE

A woman touched down in West Glover last Tuesday. No one was hurt, but really, how much more could one mother-in-law take?

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MAGNUS

That's how many pounds of guns tapping were stolen from Rockydale Farm in Grand on Monday according to Vermont State Police. The missing items include pepperoni, bacon, beef and sausage. That list of meat be worth your weight.



TOP FIVE

HOTTEST POPULAR TOPICS THIS WEEK

1. **State Task "Prohibition Pig"** by Alice Lewis and John Hertz. Our food items have been the subject of controversy lately. In fact, the state's top law enforcement officer has been asked to launch a campaign for the event.
2. **"The Long, Bumpy Road"** by Paul Hertz. Chittenden County's ruling state Senator gets all the news in the news, but not the most important news in the state.
3. **"The 2012 Vermont State Election"** by John Hertz. The proposed 100th anniversary of the state's top law enforcement officer has been a topic of discussion for some time.
4. **Golf Digest: "Golfers and Golfers"** by John Hertz. Massachusetts, Southwestern, and the state's top law enforcement officer have been a topic of discussion for some time.
5. **"New Burlington Culture: It's All About Style"** by John Hertz. The state's top law enforcement officer has been a topic of discussion for some time.

tweet of the week:

insiderstory
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FEEDback
READER REACTION TO RECENT ARTICLES

NOT GOOD FOR THE HOOD

The proposed 14-lane Airport Road are not being maintained, and it is affecting the entire neighborhood. [Article in Vermont "A Neighborhood's Future Is Up in the Air" May 23] Our local press are beginning to drop due to the area around us. I would guess the report was told in advance that you wanted to video because most people don't look like the video. I have worked hard to maintain and develop a nice home for my retirement and, in a snap, it can be gone. I do not want to move from South Burlington, but the prices of homes are no longer within my reach. I have lived in these neighborhoods since 1988.

Irene Russell
SOUTH BURLINGTON

LEGISLATURE NEEDS LEVINE

My question to Judith Levine [Feb. 19, "Inmate to Rescue," May 23] Why, oh why, did you say out of the vaccination debate is unrelated to the bioterrorism? You are the clearest, most engaged and most compelling person I have read. While conspiracy theories seem to abound in Vermont — whether it's fear of mud coated through fluoridation or gas emitted overpassing through smart meters — the anti-vaccination is, in my view, the most misguided and dangerous of them all. Judith, if there is an opportunity for a legislative ride on the philosophical exemption wagon, please!

Steve Brooks
SOUTH BURLINGTON

WRONG, WRONG

Although I also issue with direct every statement in this letter's stunning column on vaccines. I responded to the two issues that made me [Feb. 19, "Inmate to Rescue," May 23]

(1) Vaccine companies make little profit and are saddled with huge liability. Actually, the reverse is true. Vaccines are enormously profitable, with double-digit annual growth. In 2009, Sanofi-Aventis, a leading vaccine manufacturer, predicted \$2.3 billion in vaccine sales by this year, while sustained immunization programs guarantee a market. The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 "vaccine manufacturer liability for a

ANIMALS X-ING?

[Re Monday Page Forum, "What's Up With the Bridge so Nowhere Over the Burlington Airport?" May 23] The beautiful effects that roads can have on wildlife populations have been detailed in the scientific literature. Providing crossing structures that allow animals safe passage can help mitigate this harm. Parks are used not only by people, they are so used this bridge as a wildlife crossing?

Maureen Connors
SURLINGTON

TIN NEWCOMES



mercury, unreliable, adverse side effects," he ruled by the U.S. Supreme Court.

(2) Vaccines are safe. In fact, numerous state agencies and parental rules are based on or preclude suits and the U.S. government has paid out \$1 billion for vaccine litigation. Denying vaccine injuries is "unrealistic," a consequence of suffering families and does nothing to persuade them of the value of vaccination. It's a child's epilepsy-like shock after eating peanuts were shrugged off, then universal requirements were enacted to get parents on a regular schedule, with policies set by agencies with targeted financial aim to protect companies, would anyone be surprised at private distrust, resistance and outrage?

Perhaps parents who hold a conscientious objection to acceptable pharmaceutical products will be willing to consider vaccinating their children for "the greater good," as soon as the vaccine industry sacrifices all profit in the name of public health. Does that sound reasonable?

Charlotte Gilbreth
WORCESTER

PUBLIC GOOD

Though not always in agreement with Judith Levensky's opinions, I applaud her most recent columns (Phil Fox "Immune to Reason," May 23). As an educator and a father, I recognize that parents must have the right to advocate for their children. There are facts, however, when the public good must be considered: I agree passionately that the rights of individuals include non-scientific decisions that affect the health of everyone's children and the consequences in which they live. I couldn't have said it better, more plainly or in a manner that I legally oppose the arguments from both sides of the debate. Good job, Judith!

Billy Doherty
STARKSBORO

SOUNDINGS OFF

Although the F-16 fighter jets are far from my backyard, I feel for the folks whose back seats they are in (TP-134 fighter jets in Stark County's Air Force Base hangar and base). May 16, I spent time at the dog park on Kirby Road, right next to the airport. The first time I heard the F-16s take off it sounded like the sky was being torn apart. That, and my rudeness. I worried for the health of my dog's eyes and my own. I can't imagine anything longer, but the proposed F-16s. To me this is an environmental health concern that warrants a thorough examination of health concerns and our own lives. Are there other job-generators/benefit efforts that are less harmful to others? After my first, I would propose supporting of the F-16s speed time at the dog park when a couple of consecutive takeoffs occur and

ask yourself how you would feel if it were your backyard. We're talking thousands of families and a school full of children close by. To me the answer is loud and clear.

Arney Rodcliffe
VERMONT

HOW DO YOU DEFINE HARASSMENT?

I was disappointed with your coverage of *Harassment's* proposed patient safety act on October 1 (Your Game, May 20). It's actually not at all "bizarre" that no patients came forward to publicly testify about being harassed on their way to receive health services at Planned Parenthood. I was a patient at PPVNC for many years; I was pregnant and harassed while getting my annual pap smear. I certainly might think twice about getting up at first of the day (usually) and a house full of reporters to talk about it. Any harasser doesn't seem to get that there are private confidential health care services and that people have a right to receive health care without being harassed on their way through the door.

I have worked for many years with survivors of sexual and domestic violence. I've witnessed firsthand the conditions in which perpetrators of violence undermine women's ability to control their own bodies and their access to health services. For many of these women, Planned Parenthood has been a tremendous resource, providing confidential, respectful, compassionate care. It boggles my egoism to think of women being harassed on their way into the clinic that might provide them with sexually-transmitted infection screening, emergency contraception and other services to help regain control of their bodies and their lives.

The safety net proposes a fair balance between respecting patients' safety and confidentiality and the rights of providers. I wish that *Harassment's* reporting did more to acknowledge this delicate balance and these patients caught in the middle.

Sarah Kennedy
BURLINGTON

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- FRI-4/5 NEW! PHOTOS & THE SCIENCE HALL-1PM
- FRI-4/5 JAZZMAN 8PM / DJ MARIO 11PM
- SAT-6/7 CRAIG MICHAEL 11PM
- SAT-6/7 STUDIO CHICKEN 11PM
- SUN-4/5 DJ CHRIS 10PM
- SUN-4/5 THE BOYS 10PM/830S 8PM
- SUN-4/5 DJ KERRY / 10PM / DJ 10PM 8PM
- SUN-4/5 GAMES BROTHERS 9PM
- SUN-4/5 DJ JAY BARON 10PM
- MON-4/5 MISSION 10PM
- MON-4/5 HARBURY NIGHTS 10PM/8 10PM
- TUE-6/7 KRAVILL ROCK 11PM
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SUMMER SESSIONS 2012

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79 import/export C-7
79 provide services C-8
80 jobs C-8



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MUST SEE MUST DO THIS WEEK

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THURSDAY 7

Alien Invasion

After last month's *Andy Ryan* calls her music "jungle kangaroo smoke rock of some weird kind," her experimental tunes mixed familiar genres — folk, jazz, soul — into something intriguingly foreign, and "the melodic genius of their band," writes the *Boston Globe*.

SEE CLUB DATE ON PAGE 40

1



2

THURSDAY-FRIDAY 10

Routes Music

After a season for road tripping, *Postcards* on PBS soon is the 13th annual *Routes on the River Festival* to follow this. A free day on top of local morning music — Jay and the Road Hound Band, Ed Egan, and Josh Gable like Red Hot Chili Peppers and the Grateful Dead — makes it worth the drive.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

SUNDAY 10

Sax Ed

The Burlington Decade Jazz Festival is coming off its most ambitious date this Sunday. Say hello to the 30-act event and join Lee Kowalski Quartet & the Burlington Decade Jazz Festival Band. The super saxophone brings 80 years of playing experience to the stage — as well as local jazzers and the Ray Vega and Alex Stewart.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

3

SATURDAY 9
& SUNDAY 10

Ship Shape

Well, shivers! Limbs. Sweatbuckles swim. Lake Champlain Maritime Museum for this weekend's *Rubik's Plastic Festival*. If you're looking to grieve and gander, though, you've dropped anchor in the wrong waters — this two-day business bash is all about mental fun. Consider up step aboard a 1776 gunboat and sail hot.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

4

SATURDAY 9
& SUNDAY 10

Summer Daze

When Mother Nature belabors Vermonters know how to make the most of it. That's never truer than at the annual *Vermont Days* during which state parks, gardens and state-owned historic sites are free — no strings attached. Go on and get outside already.

SEE CALENDAR SPOTLIGHT ON PAGE 47

5

THURSDAY 7-SUNDAY 10

Date Night

Lovers on the air? It's time to take a break from all that Northern Theater's latest produce box. Whether you're single, newly partnered or in it for the long haul, you should find something that speaks — or sings — to you in *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Tailor the musical, play and cast-often gathered through June 26.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

6

SATURDAY 9
& SUNDAY 10

Fairest of Them All

Green White is everywhere this week, whether she's being played by Kyrle Stewart in a decidedly darker big-screen adaptation or by a dancer in a local — and quite classical — ballet production. The latter — going to see the Northern Vermont Ballet Company and the Ball of School of Vermont, with a Phoenix Charming from the acclaimed Leonard Ballet — comes with a guaranteed top play ever after.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 40

7

everything else...

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Beltway Bound?

Gov. **PETER SHUMLIN** turned heads in March when he told PolitiCo he was running for the chairmanship of the Democratic Governors Association — one of the party's most prominent fundraising machines. But according to sources both inside and outside the Beltway it wasn't much of a surprise. Shumlin's got it in the bag. A former aide to Connecticut Gov. **BOB RUTLAND**, whose name was also floated for the job, tells *Five Games* that Shumlin is not running — and he's backing the Green Mountain guy.

"My boss, the governor, is not a contender and is fully supporting Gov. Shumlin," says **BOB DEGENBERG**. "He thinks [Shumlin] has been a good governor, thinks he's a strong leader and thinks he'll serve the DGA very well."

According to DGA executive director **COLIN O'CONNOR**, the organization won't pick a replacement for outgoing chairman **NATHAN BACHILER** — the Maryland governor and 2016 presidential aspirant — until December. But, he says, Shumlin "would be a popular choice." The leader is generally pulled by consensus, and so it doesn't view this as being a contentious selection process.

NATHAN BACHILER, a former DGA executive director, puts it more succinctly: "My guess is [Shumlin] will be the next DGA chair."

O'Connor, if you ask Shumlin himself, the good governor will tell you he's too focused on the people's business to even entertain his running for anything.

"I've made clear to other governors that I'm willing to be the chair and have had discussions with my Democratic colleagues about whether or not it's a good idea — and that's been the extent of it," he says. "All I'm saying is, I'm not something I'm focused on. I'm also not focused on a reelection campaign that the press seems to want me to be focused on."

Oh, snap!
Indeed, though Shumlin admits he's seeking the DGA chairmanship next year — a job that, you know, requires one to be a governor — Shumlin has been loath to admit he's running for reelection in his day job, saying campaign season should wait until Labor Day.

When pressed, the guy says this: "Let's put it this way: I don't think it's any secret that I love this job. It's an incredible privilege to have it, and it's highly likely I will seek reelection."

What does the DGA gig entail? For one thing, serving as message guru for Democratic governors. Shumlin showed a propensity for that skill in February, when he got his fellow Dem govts to sport "Chlor Up" buttons around the Beltway. Their message? Republicans "down and gross" rhetoric flies in the face of improving economic news.

On second thought, that message might need a little tweaking. Aside from longer (with **DAVE CRISMAN** as "Meet the Press," the DGA chair's principal role is to rule in cash — mostly from heavy-banking corporations — and dole it out to Dems in need. As an independent, 537 advocacy group, the DGA doesn't have to abide by federal campaign-finance laws. During the last

of whom used the DGA chairmanship as a catalyst to the national stage.

"If you think of Vermont as off-Broadway, the DGA is the big time," says Montpelier lobbyist **KEVIN BLAIR**. "It's a place for him to play on the national stage, a place for [Shumlin] to test out if he has the chops for the variety arena."

So is a handkerchief for higher office draping Shumlin's nose?

Former governor **JOHN DOUGLAS**, who himself chaired the National Governors Association — a bipartisan, policy-oriented organization — says it's sometimes the reverse for those who chair the DGA, the NGA or the Republican Governors Association.

"I often wondered about some of these folks in the past as to whether that ambition preceded, or was a consequence of, their role — because, you know, it's hardly stuff," Douglas says of hobnobbing in the nation's capital.

Would Shumlin run for U.S. Senate in 2016 if **ANTHONY LUCIO** retired? Would he seek a cabinet post in a second **BARACK OBAMA** administration? Would he be ready, year 2016, to assume — get the idea that a liberal governor from Vermont could run for president?

"I haven't spent any time thinking about that," Shumlin insists.

The way Ellis sees it, Vermonters shouldn't begrudge the gov for spreading his wings and singing Vermont's praises to the wider world. Instead of telling that story to the Times Argus, he gets to tell that to the *New York Times* and other governors all the time," he says.

After all, Ellis adds, "It's better than sitting in Montpelier all day running state government."

Chatterbox's Angel

Tough times are growing tougher for U.S. Rep. **CHARLES WADSWORTH**, the Barre Democrat whose campaign-finance violations cost him the chairmanship of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee — not to mention his dignity. Ayer and still says, you'll recall, Rangel became the first House member in nearly 30 years to be formally censured by his peers for among other offenses, failing to pay taxes on the retail income he earns from his Democratic Republic Villi.

Whoops?

With his influence diminished and electoral influence eroded, Rangel now faces a new problem: a dearth of campaign contributions in the first

LET'S PUT IT THIS WAY: I DON'T
THINK IT'S ANY SECRET THAT
I LOVE THIS JOB.

GOV. PETER SHUMLIN

full election cycle. It raised more than half a million from 15 unions and corporations, including Fluor, NextEra Energy Resources and AutoZeneca. Last May, the DGA cashed a \$50,000 check from Energy — Vermont Yankee's owner and Shumlin's former nemesis.

Wonder if he'll send the thank you check next year?

Below did any only a year ago he half into his first term as governor become first in line to stage the chairmanship? Let's just say there's a small pool of candidates. As of press time — before the results of Wisconsin's recall vote is — the Democrats held just 20 governorships. Most big-state govts have too much on their plates, while those facing tough reelection fights tend to avoid the distraction, Double says. But for a certain kind of ambitious pol, the DGA can be a ticket to the big show.

"If you're a governor — unless you're governor of New York or California — it's almost impossible to break into the national arena from a state capital," Double says.

Just ask **BOB CLINTON**, **BOB RUTLAND**, **KATHLEEN SHELDON** and **ANDREW CROW** — such

quarter of 2012, the former chairman needs a more \$60,000.

Never fear! As the New York Times reported last week, more than a dozen Democratic colleagues in the House are riding to Rangel's rescue — donating thousands each to the embattled congressman's campaign committee.

Among them: Vermont's own U.S. Rep. **PETER WELCH**, whose campaign account forked over \$200 to Rangel's on March 29, according to Federal Election Commission records.

"Charlie never asked me directly," Welch tells the Times. "I don't remember if I heard from another colleague that Charlie needed help. But I was not going to make Charlie come to me."

It's not the first time Welch and Rangel have teamed.

Back when "Charlie" was in charge, the senior Democrat donated \$10,000 to Welch's 2006 and 2008 campaigns — a small portion of the \$1 million Rangel would later help retake the House. In 2008, Welch was tapped to sit as the House Ethics Committee, which was investigating Rangel — so he returned all \$10,000 to the chairman. In November 2010, Welch and his committee colleagues voted 9-4 to censure Rangel, the full House followed suit the next month, voting 267 to 149 to censure him.

(Disclosure: I worked for Welch from November 2006 until March 2011.)

So why did Welch, after finding Rangel guilty of campaign-finance violations, pony up cash to support his reelection?

Welch's office declined to answer specific questions but provided a statement citing Rangel's Korean War service and calling him "a decent man who grew up on the wrong side of the tracks and fought his way to the right side."

"He has been appropriately punished for his transgressions. He was censured by the House and removed from chairing a powerful committee," Welch said in the statement. "Whether he remains in Congress is a decision his constituents will make, but I am happy to help him in this tough reelection fight."

All Aboard

A week and a half before the filing deadline for November's elections, the field for Chittenden County's six-member senate district is growing closer.

Former Burlington House member **DAVID BERGERMAN** — a Progressive who chaired the House Agriculture Committee — and Tuesday he'll seek the Democratic nomination for senate from his new home in Hinesburg. The

self-proclaimed "9/12" also hopes to nab the Progressive nomination as a write-in candidate.

Of the district's six incumbents, only Democratic Sen. **ANDREW HALL** is stepping down. Newcomers include Burlington City Councilor **AN ANDRUS** and Vermont Interfaith Action executive director **KEITH HUBBARD**, both of whom are going for the Democratic. Roster Burlington mayor **BOB KISS** plans to run as an independent, **RICHARD JEDLOWSKI** is running as a Prog and **WILLIAM PALMER** is running as a Republican and Tea Party member.

State Rep. **JOEY WRIGHT** (R-Burlington), who lost a Burlington mayoral bid in March, tells Fair Game he has decided not to run for the Senate. Instead, he'll seek reelection to his New North End House seat.

Media Notes

It's a girl! Last Tuesday, regular Fair Game columnist **ANDY ROSSINI** and his wife, **ANDREW'S WIFE KRISTINE**, welcomed to the world **KARIE VANDER BEEKHE**. She clocked in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces and infinite cuteness. Big ups to the happy family!

Speaking of happy families, the state's senates gathered in Montpelier last Thursday for the annual meeting of the Vermont Press Association. Green Mountain journals offered plenty about open-records laws and heard from Gov. Shumlin. More importantly, the VPA showcased its members with prizes. The Burlington Free Press took home 13 awards and mentions, including the Miss Doyle Award for political writer **NAOMY BROWN**. The Valley News and Addison Independent each earned one honor, while this weekly rag snagged six. The Rutland Herald and the Coveries of Windham County won awards for general excellence, and the Milton Independent's **JACQUELINE CHEN** won Rookie of the Year.

Though the Free's editorial board was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, it didn't make the grade last time, earning just an honorable mention in the VPA editorial category.

Hey, at least it wasn't a tie! ☺

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PHOTO: JEFFREY H. HARRIS

Why Vermont Is Paying Some Teens to Take Sex Ed

BY KATHYRN FLAGG

"Money talks," says Ryan Krushnick, 22, the laid-back, tattooed program coordinator at the Bristol Hub, a teen center and skatepark in Addison County that serves five regional towns.

That's why the Hub is shelling out cold, hard cash to incentivize a voluntary sex-education program targeting at-risk youth. Students who complete the 36-hour course at the Hub will each earn a \$500 out of the grant funding that the teen center received to host the class.

It's not a bribe, Krushnick says — just an enticement to initiate a conversation that he thinks most teens should be having.

"Teens have sexual desires," Krushnick says. "It happens. Kids don't want to say they're doing it, parents don't want to know, and it takes on a very clandestine nature."

The Bristol program is funded by the Administration on Children, Youth and Families, and comes by way of the Affordable Care Act — aka "Obamacare." The new, five-year "personal responsibility education program" (PREP) was created to educate adolescents on both abstinence and contraception.

PREP is doling out more than \$55 million in grants to states annually to jump-start programs aimed at preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. Another \$10 million in grants is available specifically for reaching out to high-risk youth.

Vermont's cut of the pie is \$250,000, which the Department of Health used this year to fund four centers: the Bristol Hub, the Vermont Coalition of Runaway & Homeless Youth Programs, Service Rendered and Windham County Youth Services. All together, these organizations are sponsoring eight sex-ed classes across the state. In the Hub's case, the center will receive \$300 per pupil for up to 12 students who complete the state-approved curriculum.

In Bristol, the course is dished out over four weeks, with two afternoon classes per week. Seven Days arrives



for the second lesson just as the teens tumble into the heated, brightly lit center and collapse on mismatched couches in the middle of the room. A faint pizza smell lingers in the air. A few kids play a first-person-shooter video game on one of the big-screen TVs, but when it's time for class to start, the screens are turned off and taped over with a poster spelling out the house rules of the program.

From the get-go, it's clear that this isn't school. First and foremost among

the rules for the day is that teens don't have to answer any questions on topics they feel uncomfortable discussing.

"This is your space," says teen-center director James Lockridge, who also leads up *Rig Rite* World in Burlington.

Lockridge leads the first half of the class, which includes a gender-neutral role-play exercise with title characters "Lor" and "Lee." The two Lees — one reduction, the other permutation — debate the merits and dangers of unprotected sex. One Lee reassures

the other: "Don't worry. We don't have anything to worry about."

"Forever hot world!" calls out a wary, bespectacled kid.

The posterist is a guest one. After having impersonated sex, one of the characters is diagnosed with HIV. "Which Lee?" asks one of the real-life students.

"That's a bumme!" offers another. The curriculum is role-play heavy, but by the end of the class the students are enthusiastically playing along. One boy, who spends most of the class fidgeting while

seated out on the carpet, does an impromptu

turn as a romantic partner reluctant to have sex. The scene is the group's jumping-off point for a conversation about what it means to say no.

"If it doesn't feel like the right time for sex, it probably isn't," advises Lockridge, who repeatedly assures students that the curriculum will deal with abstinence too, as well.

Soon his brow is damp with sweat. "You guys make choices," Lockridge tells the teens. "You have all the power."

The students are restless, but they loosen up as the class goes on. They're especially vociferous when Lockridge and Krushnick ask them to guess, on average, how many high school girls and boys have never had sex. The answers — 35 and 49 percent, respectively — are discussed with protestations of "No way!"

At other moments, though, the teens seem more like apathetic students than excited adolescents. "They're called STDs now," one interjects during a conversation about sexually transmitted diseases — make that infections.

The Vermont Department of Health selected the curriculum from among several dozen federally approved "evidence-based" programs. The students each receive a workbook titled *Reducing the Risk: Building Skills to Prevent Pregnancy, STDs & HIV*. For federal approval, the

EDUCATION

curriculum had to be read tested, with data to prove the lessons helped teens make better choices. It also had to teach both abstinence and contraception.

In addition to the role plays, the lessons include several take-home assignments — such as a worksheet to guide a sit-down conversation with parents about their thoughts on birth control and sexual activity. Another homework assignment asks students to visit a pharmacy and compare shop for condoms. Which brands are available, and how much do they cost? How is the teen treated at the shop? Would he or she recommend a friend buy contraceptives there?

The grant funding requires Leckridge and Krushenick to stay fairly close to the book, but Krushenick takes a few liberties when allowed. His adaptations have focused on making the curriculum more gender neutral and queer positive, where possible.

"I don't want to just teach safe heterosexual sex," he says. "I want to make sure that, whether they engage in heterosexual or homosexual sex, they have all the information they need."

Issa Stenberg, a public health program administrator with the Vermont Department of Health, is working with centers in Vermont to roll out the sex-ed program, he says the state's plan to incentivize attendance — in this case, with cash — isn't an uncommon strategy in public health programming.

"We know that incentives work," she says.

Stalberg adds that officials also know that, by and large, sex education in Vermont works. The state

has the third-lowest teen birth rate in the country — behind New Hampshire and Massachusetts — according to 2000 data from the Kaiser Family Foundation. Vermont is one of 20 states nationwide, including the District of Columbia, that mandate sex education in schools.

At the end of class, Chelsea Thompson, 16, Taylor Greene, 17, and Sarah Miller, 14, make for the door. The girls have spent the class wedged into a tiny love seat, chatting in soft opinions and answers when Leckridge and Krushenick posed the group.

Thompson and Greene have already completed the sex-education class at Bristol's Mount Abraham Union High School — it's required of all sophomore students. "I loved it, actually," says the blond, smiling Thompson about the class. But both worry that, while their classmates talk about sex frequently, safe sex isn't a topic of conversation.

Asked why they're attending a second sex-ed class, Thompson and Greene say they're just looking to be better informed. They've already learned something new, Thompson adds, and exchanges a smile with Miller before earnestly emphasizing the importance of agreeing the sex out of the

reserve up on a condom below use.

It's exactly the kind of lesson that Krushenick hoped the students would take away. In his everyday interactions with teens at the center, he's learned that many don't know the basic rules of contraception — including how to use a condom properly.

"It's my personal feeling that we don't have enough sex ed in schools," Krushenick says. "You can't have too much." ☐

KIDS DON'T WANT TO SAY THEY'RE DOING IT, PARENTS DON'T WANT TO KNOW, AND IT TAKES ON A VERY CLANDESTINE NATURE.

BYAN KRUSHENICK



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Winooski: Still Shopping for a Grocery Store

BY CORIN HIRSCH

It takes about 20 minutes to walk uphill from the Winooski traffic circle to the Shaw's supermarket in Colchester. That isn't quite not a bad commute, but the city's sidewalk, steps before it reaches the Interstate 89 overpass. Following Route 7 under the overpass is a treacherous endeavor, with only two-and-a-half feet between sidewalks — or bicyclists — and incoming cars. Yet, because Shaw's is the only supermarket near Winooski — where at least 44 percent of residents live more than a mile from a grocery store, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture — there's a well-worn footpath in the woods just past the dangerous 89 intersection.

"Quite a few customers comment that they make the walk," says Kim Brown, assistant vice president of financial services at the People's United Bank branch located inside Shaw's. "I live a half-mile away and would love to walk, but I will not cross under the intersection."

Those who do leave the trip have little choice. Since both the IDS downtown and the Grand Union on Millers Bay Avenue closed in the late 1990s, the Onion City has been without a grocery store — even as it has gained new condos, restaurants and an ever-growing, diverse population. Winooski has a coffee shop, nightclub, tattoo business, gym, gallery and two pet centers, but it still lacks a single

spot to purchase milk, bread, meat and veggies together, the Sunday farmers market notwithstanding.

"One of the most heartbreaking things in this town is the number of people who live here and don't have cars and don't have access to healthy food," says Josh Harrington, a longtime resident and former city councilor who

has been involved in various efforts to attract a grocery store since the moved to Winooski in 1992. "It's been very frustrating."

Winooski's supermarket vacuum was spotlighted last fall, when City Market's board of trustees considered expansion into the burg, then turned its attention to another site that better fit its goals.

ONE THING WE'RE REALLY CLEAR ABOUT IS, WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER CONVENIENCE STORE.

SARAH ROBINSON

The resulting public disappointment seems to have energized some of the city's officials, both new and old, who are thinking out of the box to solve the issue.

"One of the things we've heard is that Winooski doesn't fit the traditional mold,"

says Sarah Robinson, who was elected to

the city council in 2000. She thinks the city's perceived problems — such as extreme density and lack of parking — could give rise to a new breed of market. "We're not going to get a Shaw's in downtown Winooski," Robinson says. "We're going to have to look at something that's new and innovative and a little bit of a risk, something that just may not exist anywhere else in the state of Vermont."

In 2006, the U.S. Department of Agriculture classified Winooski and Burlington's Old North End as "food deserts," or low-income areas where a substantial number of residents have "low access to a supermarket or grocery store." Vermont's only other food deserts are in the Northeast Kingdom.

What city residents currently do have is a smattering of convenience stores with various food options. At Winooski Falls Market, a convenience store and deli in Koenig's Crossing, nearby employees and residents can grab a sandwich, salad, a gallon of milk, frozen chicken breasts, flour or Rudi's Puffin. But the only fresh produce on hand are a few bananas, apples and lemons.

The handful of ethnic food markets in town generally have a richer selection. On a recent visit, Namaste Asian Market on Main Street offered duck, sugar-snap peas, tomatoes, yams, duck eggs and a refrigerator full of mustard greens.

"To make a meal here [in Winooski], you really need to play groceries,"

WINOOSKI VIEWS





In Memoriam: Bernie Beaudoin, Burlington Philanthropist

BY KEN RICARD

Bernard "Bernie" Beaudoin was a man of modest means. In 2005, he sold his Victorian home on North Avenue at a steep discount to HOPE Works (formerly the Women's Rape Crisis Center), financing the purchase with a zero-interest loan. The deal was a boon to the organization, which aids victims of sexual violence throughout Chittenden County.

Before Beaudoin owned the house, the 108-year-old building served for years as the Vermont Women's Health Center. In the 1970s, it was a national focal point for abortion protests. As Beaudoin noted in 2003, he was well aware of the building's controversial history, and even suggested that his gift was his own personal way of exorcising some of its "ghosts."

Beaudoin died in May after a brief illness, he was 89. According to HOPE Works executive director Catherine Wilson, as well as an unnamed family member, he agreed to absolve HOPE Works of the remainder of its debt to him upon his death — a sum of about \$240,000.

"Bernie wasn't a wealthy person, but he was incredibly generous," says Wilson. "In my mind, he's kind of us, someone hereon our community."

A "Two-Fisted" or "Ham-Fisted" Attorney General?

BY PAUL HEINTZ

When Attorney General Bill Sorrell launched his reelection campaign last Wednesday at the Statehouse, he had clearly settled on a metaphor to describe his 15 years in office: that of a hard-charging fighter ready to take the gloves off and lead by leg. And corporate opponents so unenthused.

Just a few hours into his inaugural event, the lawyer-turned-lawyer said, "I have been called a 'two-fisted attorney general,' and there's a reason for that. I have never backed away from aggressively but fairly enforcing our laws — even when confronting wealthy and powerful opponents."

So who exactly referred to the AG as he with two fists?

A quick Google search tells what is, perhaps somewhat 6 and just one such reference a post on the left-leaning blog Green Mountain Daily, penned by freelance writer John Wilman of Montpelier. Sorrell's campaign confirmed the photo's origin.

Tearable is the guy who coined the term was hands joining.

"I don't know if I was being sarcastic or ironic," says Wilman, who's written a number of blog posts critical of Sorrell. "I certainly didn't mean it kindly. I don't really think of him as a two-fisted attorney general, so in that sense I guess I was being a little sarcastic."

CTTA Bus Schedule Data Now Available on Google Maps

BY TYLER MACHADO

Traveling by bus in Vermont just got a little easier.

CTTA bus schedule data is now available on Google Transit. That means when you're looking for directions on Google Maps, you'll see a public transit option alongside the drive, walk and bike options.

It's not just useful in Burlington, either. Live in, say, Waterbury? Google will give you driving or walking directions to the nearest park-and-ride lot and tell you when to expect a LINE bus there. And if you're traveling from Burlington to Middlebury, Google's directions transition from the CTCTA to Addison County's ACTR buses, which are also on Google Transit. Easy peasy!

If you live outside of Chittenden or Addison counties, fear not —

the Agency of Transportation is now spearheading an effort to get Vermont's smaller, rural transit agencies integrated with Google Maps. ☺



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Winooski WPC

says Seth Leonard, a Winooski resident and new member of the Winooski Community Partnership, a volunteer, nonprofit organization seeking to revitalize downtown.

The longtime lack of a supermarket has motivated city officials to court various vendors over the years, including City Market. The leadership of the Burlington co-op was interested in a Winooski satellite as early as 2003, according to Harrington, who was City Market's marketing manager when urban-development collaboration was beginning in Winooski. At the time, the developers of Keri's Crossing included a roughly 150,000-square-foot, ground-floor space inside the complex, intending it as an eventual grocery store.

Though that space is striking, it lacks a few key features — significantly a loading dock. And it is a remote corner, rather than the small, porous corner occupied by the Winooski Falls Market, which opened two years ago.

When City Market announced plans last fall to build a second store, three potential sites were mentioned: Burlington's South End, the Old North End and Winooski.

Representatives from City Market had already looked at the empty Keri's Crossing space and found it inadequate to their needs. They've also looked at various other locations in town, but so far none has had the accountability, parking or affordability to support City Market's most immediate goal — to one compete as an Burlington store.

City Market's recent study showed that better economic practices — and more parking — be elsewhere. "Our market study came back and said we should concentrate on the Pine Street area [in the South End]," says general manager Glen Niles. While popular support for a Winooski market is high, residents of the other two locations are clamoring for their own City Market, too, he adds. Expanding into an area solely as a "goodwill exercise" might not fly with a bank or with the co-op's members. "A lot of factors go into deciding that," Niles says. "A huge portion of this culture needs to take into account fiscal responsibility to itself as the needs of any community of which we'll be a part."

When it seemed clear that City Market wasn't heading north, sign posted out in dozens of messages on Front Street. "The City Market expansion possibility was really exciting for a lot of folks in Winooski," says City Councilor Robinson. "Now we're trying to figure out where we go next. One

thing we're really clear about is, we don't want another convenience store."

That view is shared by Leonard, who works at Opportunities Creek Union and sits on the economic-development committee of the Winooski Community

Partnership every day. We had \$50,000 in sales at our farmers market [last season]."

Though Niles points out that Winooski is not completely out of the running for an eventual store, Leonard and others are planning ahead with their

— the city and its activists have been looking to other models around the state, as well as to urban initiatives such as mobile vendors. "If we have to get all guerrilla about it, at least that's a possibility," Leonard says.

He has been working closely with a family that owns both a Fairfax farm and a vacant lot in Winooski, and says the farmers are poised to set up a produce stand in the city this summer, "three or four days a week."

Both Gillen, who moved to Winooski in 2010 with his family and serves as chair of the city's planning committee, says it is important to embrace Winooski's differences and challenges as opportunities. "The grocery that Winooski gets will probably be the first of its kind in Vermont. It's not going to be a 10,000-square-foot [store], like City Market, it will probably be 10,000 to 15,000 square feet and will cater to a variety of income groups and tastes," Gillen predicts. "It just takes the right entrepreneur who is passionate about Winooski. This isn't a desire of ours — it's a need. We need somewhere to buy stuff, dinner and some diapers for our kids."

Winooski Mayor Michael O'Brien remembers when his mother shopped for groceries at Winooski's IGA, which was sacrificed in the latest round of urban development. Though he says the city has talked to "several people" over the years about opening a market — to no avail — O'Brien sounds optimistic that the forward momentum and imaginative thinking of the new city council and community partnership will reverse Winooski's poor grocery fortunes. "It's a great opportunity for a market, and we're looking at a flexible approach with a product mix and possibly multiple vendors," Gillen says. "Though, as of yet, there's really nothing on the table."

An eventual Winooski market could resemble those common in more urban areas. "Maybe what the future holds isn't a grocery store per se, but maybe we become the best town in terms of corner markets," Gillen speculates. "Maybe the future doesn't look that different than the past."

However it will look, Robinson hopes the city will have its market within three years. Leonard agrees. "From a social and political perspective, it is time for us to move on. We need to look toward for ideas and vision that will solve the problem," he says. "But that we won't be depending someone from the outside."



IT IS IN ALL OF OUR INTERESTS TO SOLVE
THIS SERIOUS FOOD AND SOCIOECONOMIC CRISIS.
THERE IS A HUMAN SIDE TO THIS.

SETH LEONARD

Partnership. "The city of Winooski recently filled the job of community development director into a broader, more service-based position, so the WCP has taken up some of the slack with regard to economic development." The partnership is building "the negative perception of Winooski [as] not being a great shopping base for a health-foods market of some kind, not being wealthy enough to support organic food," he says. "One of thousands of cars pass through our city

explorations. There's a chance of people not wanting around for [City Market]," he says. "People need access to fresh food, and we can't force a board of trustees to make a decision. It's in all of our interests to solve this serious food and socioeconomic crisis. There is a human side to this," Leonard adds.

In addition to identifying sites for a permanent market — for instance, the city owns a lot adjacent to the Champlain Mall that might be ideal

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS

A Decade of Daysies!

2003 was a big year: A white tiger mauls Siegfried and Roy's Roy, leaving him perilously gimpaled. 50 Cent topped the charts with "In Da Club." Apple launched the iTunes Store. Kinky the Free Milly once died, gets applied at \$1.83 a gallon, and Seven Days launched its first-ever best-of awards, the Seven Daysies.

It's hard to believe, but this is our 10th year doling out honors to readers' local faves: the restaurants you return to again and again, the local musicians you drop anything to see live, your go-to stores and, of course, the restaurants who have your heart.

The quickest way to our hearts is to head over to sevendaysvt.com and fill out the ballot online — it'll save you postage and is the original of deciphering your handwriting. If you don't have access to the internet,

send the paper survey to **PD, Box 1664, Burlington, VT 05402**, by Friday, June 22.

Please be as specific as possible — and write legibly!

Who are you?

1. How old are you?

Under 18
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60-69
Over 70

2. Which gender

best describes you?
Female Male Other

3. Your zip code:

ILLUSTRATION: JAMES

Food & Drink

4. Best restaurant, if you're paying
5. Best restaurant, if they're paying
6. Best new restaurant (opened in the last 12 months)
7. Best breakfast/brunch
8. Best to-go lunch
9. Best Asian restaurant (including Indian)
10. Best Mexican/Latin restaurant
11. Best ethnic restaurant (other)
12. Restaurant with best vegetarian fare
13. Best restaurant to take the kids
14. Best place to get late-night food
15. Best pizza (restaurant)
16. Best pizza (delivery)

17. Best Vermont cheese
18. Best burger
19. Best food cart/truck
20. Best snack bar
21. Best Vermont craft beer
22. Best Vermont wine
23. Best Vermont spirit
24. Best bar
25. Best place to get coffee
26. Best bakery
27. Best non-chain place to buy groceries
28. Best farmers-market vendor
29. Best wine seller

Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

30. Best large live-music venue
31. Best small local-music hot spot
32. Best place to drink alone
33. Best up-and-coming Vermont musical performer
34. Best underground Vermont band
35. Best Vermont hip-hop artist/group
36. Best local record label
37. Best Vermont standup comedian
38. Best club/DJ
39. Best Vermont cartoonist
40. Best Vermont craftspeople

SEVEN DAYSIES

2012 GUIDE TO READERS' PICKS
4 P.75

- 41. Best local clothing designer
- 42. Best local jewelry designer
- 43. Best art gallery
- 44. Best movie theater
- 45. Best Vermont festival
- 46. Best local theater company
- 47. Best performing arts venue
- 48. Best free Wi-Fi hot spot
- 49. Best Vermont park
- 50. Best public golf course
- 51. Best ski/slide slope
- 52. Best cross-country ski area
- 53. Best in-state weekend getaway
- 54. Best day trip with the kids
- 55. Best Vermont singer/BBB

Media

- 56. Best Vermont journalist
- 57. Best local TV newscast
- 58. Best local meteorologist
- 59. Best local radio DJ
- 60. Best Vermont radio station
- 61. Best Vermont blog
- 62. Best Vermont Twitter feed

Services & Stuff

- 63. Best women's casual clothing
- 64. Best women's evening wear
- 65. Best men's clothing
- 66. Best shoe store
- 67. Best vintage/secondhand clothing
- 68. Best children's clothing
- 69. Best eyeglasses
- 70. Best jewelry store
- 71. Best beauty-product purveyor
- 72. Best pet daycare
- 73. Best pet-supply store
- 74. Best toy store
- 75. Best musical-instrument store
- 76. Best bookstore
- 77. Best housewares store
- 78. Best furniture store
- 79. Best antique/secondhand store
- 80. Best lighting store
- 81. Best camera store
- 82. Best place to buy a computer
- 83. Best local web developer
- 84. Best bridal shop
- 85. Best Vermont wedding venue
- 86. Best florist
- 87. Best outdoor outfitter
- 88. Best bike shop
- 89. Best auto dealer
- 90. Best place for car repairs
- 91. Best real estate agency
- 92. Best garden center
- 93. Best bank/credit union
- 94. Best place to buy a pipe
- 95. Best adult toy store
- 96. Best hair salon
- 97. Best place to get body art
- 98. Best gym/health club
- 99. Best Vermont spa
- 100. Best manicure/pedicure

Bonus Categories

- 101. Best thing to happen in Vermont since the past year
- 102. Worst thing to happen in Vermont in the past year
- 103. Most underappreciated Vermont story of the year
- 104. Best hero or local personality
- 105. Higest hipster

The Rules

1. Voters must fill out ONLY ONE ballot. Evidence of ballot duplication (which we can't tell) will result in all these ballots being disqualified.
2. Voters must fill out a minimum of 95 answers for their ballot to be counted.
3. Play fair. Daysies candidates? Campaigning is OK, but no bribery or rewards for voters, please! In fairness of this, we'll require disqualification, not termination, for same.

Find out the winners in our special Daysies issue on August 9!

Vote online at sevendaysvt.com!

Or mail your Daysies picks to Seven Days, P.O. Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402.



More than driving on Route 7 in South Burlington can be dangerous if they arrive within the walls, according to cemetery officials. That stretch of Shelburne Road, with its abundance of big trees, farmsteads and cow sheds, is better known for its Old Ground than burial plots.

In short, times change, and so does the cemetery. And it is happened that scores of 19th- and early-20th-century Vermonters including several War of 1812 veterans were laid to rest in a grassy field ended up undeveloped between a Champlain Farms Golf station and the Freedom Plaza development. What must have once been a burial sanctuary for soldiers represents now mostly in traffic noise, diesel fumes and the touch of dog leashes. WTF?

Though an expensive investigation gate or paved walkway marks its entrance, the Shelburne Road Cemetery, an 8½-acre facility, is one of only two municipally owned cemeteries in South Burlington (The other is Eldridge Cemetery near Burlington International Airport). The 1.5-acre parcel of land was donated to the city by Frank Huntington and family. Huntington was quite into cemetery landscaping. Today, just about the only evidence that it's not a vacant lot is the mowed lawn, courtesy of the Public Works Department.

On a recent visit to the Shelburne Road Cemetery, a shopping cart full of leaves and plastic bags sits abandoned near the entrance. One is a visitor wandering through the trees that surround the site. Route 7, the ones they still look largely empty with one cluster of graves near the front and another at the rear. The headstones are in various states of disrepair, though many inscriptions are still legible, including some dating back to the early 1800s.

The town clerk's office has little information on either the cemetery's

history. Likewise, Bill Squamada, South Burlington's 10-year-old cemetery consultant, can say only that it's still considered "active." Plots are available to the public for \$300 apiece — so Squamada's best recollection, since no one has been interred there for more than a decade.

Paul Wallace of the Champlain County Historical Society is more helpful. The Burlington resident is a retired archaeologist professor from the State University of New York at Albany and is working on a project to collect epitaphs from Champlain County's 100 cemeteries. Thus far, Wallace claims to have visited 104 and visited them all "stone by stone."

"Most people in this country study cemeteries for genealogical reasons," explains Wallace, who once taught courses in Greek and Egyptian antiquities. "But if you work on a tomb in Egypt, you don't do it for genealogical reasons. You do it for sociological and historical reasons. There's what epitaphs do — they tell us about the people who are buried there and about them."

What do the epitaphs at Shelburne Road Cemetery tell us about its permanent residents? Many of the names are common in this area, including Lawrence, Coffin, Harrington, Irish and Spurr — that last the family for which Spurr Street presently was named.

More than 40 graves are listed as town residents, while online websites such as monumenta.net and findagrave.com list as many as 124. While walking the Shelburne Road Cemetery himself, Wallace says he has counted only one epitaph with a date.

The first two brothers — Thomas, William and George Collins — for Collins, the stone is difficult to read, ages 36, 33 and, respectively — who died in November 3, 1812. According to their epitaph, "The stone sons of Peter and Jane Collins were all drowned in a pond together."

The other notable epitaph is for James C. Brady who died on June 4, 1842, at the age of 18 years, six months. It reads "Early bright mind, death in infancy drew the sparkled, was snuffed and went to heaven."

The relative lack of publicly available information about the Shelburne Road Cemetery isn't surprising. Vermont, like most states, maintains no central database or registry of cemeteries or graveyards, notes Josh Stanton, executive director of the Vermont Cemetery Alliance of South Burlington.

Stanton, whose nonprofit serves as a watchdog for the funeral industry, was interviewed at length by Anderson Cooper for the May 20 episode of CBS' "60 Minutes." The story, called "Final Resting Place," explored some of the more grotesque cases of fraud and abuse in the cemetery industry, including the cover-up and disposal of bodies and headstones by cemetery employees seeking to avoid plots. Stanton, whose office routinely fields complaints about cemeteries, funeral homes and contractors, has been pushing Congress to enact legislation regulating cemeteries similar to the federal laws that already govern funeral homes and contractors.

That said, Stanton is far less concerned about abuses, sometimes failing to disappear due to it, about the "active burial" being perpetrated on contractors who are still alive.

"I get a lot of complaints from people who think there ought to be some sort of public hearing because an old cemetery, with so many descendants still being taken care of," Stanton tells Santa Zayas. "If you want it maintained, be vigilant, 'form a volunteer association'."

Challenged? or **misleading?** contact us about correcting your voting question to info@ballotquestions.com

WHISKEY TANGO FOXTROT

We just had to ask...

What's the story behind the old cemetery on Shelburne Road in South Burlington?

BY KEN PICARD



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In a Tour of Historic Homes, the Wells House Is a Showstopper

BY AMY LELLY

If you take up Burlington's Maple Street past Champlain College, a beautiful sight comes into view on your left: the gray bones and blacky moose of the Edward Wells house. The castle-like home was built in 1892 in the then-latest style, Queen Anne—a name that had less to do with the British monarch than with projecting a sense of majesty. Hence the elegant, covered porch-door entrance (called a porch-coche), elliptical porches on two levels and a three-story cylindrical tower topped by a conical roof. For many, a glimpse inside the building will be the highlight of the experience.

BURLINGTON'S ANNOUNCED FOR THIS SUNDAY

If Vermont has ever produced majesty, Wells was it. The Watbury native and brother of Civil War general William Wells (whose stone stands in Battery Park) owned Wells Richardson, a paint, medicine and dye manufacturing and distribution company. According to the 1879 National Register of Historic Places, one of the company's most successful products was Peabody's Cherry Compound, a "medicinal" containing 25 percent alcohol and extract of cherries—which is to say, what of cocaine. At the time he built the house for \$100,000, using exquisite materials and superior local craftsmen, Wells was grossing \$1 million a year.

This early pharmaceutical giant's former home at 46 Summit Street is currently being restored to serve as the University of Vermont Alumni House. The \$10.5-million renovations won't be complete until October 2015, according to UVM executive director of member services RUTH MACCORACK. But phase one—the exterior—is nearly in, and tour-goers will also have a chance to view the first floor's astonishingly beautiful interior woodwork.

"Every room is done in a different wood," says MacCorack. On a pre-tour visit, she points to the entry in white oak, the mahogany-lined main dining room and the all-oakroom in oak. MacCorack, who is also executive director of the Alumni House Campaign, says all funding for the renovations will come from private donors—a first for a UVM building.

Alumni are apparently stepping up to the plate, and no wonder. Like MacCorack (born of '90), many of them once knew the building to be the home of Delta Psi. The fraternity owned it from 1924 through 2003, when the university bought it.

"We all knew it was a special place when we were undergrads," MacCorack says, and adds that, as a Phi Beta Kappa sister at the house a couple of blocks away, she "spend a lot of time here." Despite Delta Psi's famed annual 300-long Oktoberfest parties and 63 years of frat life, the craftsmanship prevails remarkably intact.

While the house was vacant between 2007 and 2011 (when renovations began), migrants staying in the upstairs bathroom and other rooms "spray-painted the masonry but didn't touch the woodwork," MacCorack notes. Peeling closed the mahogany-lined pocket door, she reveals a 6-and-a-half-foot-wide, solid-wood panel in impeccable condition.

When completed, the building will be a place where alumni, faculty and students can mingle, attend, converse, weddings or dinners (though not stay over, despite



THE CRAFTSMANSHIP IN IT JUST MAKES ME CRY.
IT'S ALMOST A SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

DAVE ROBBINS

the foundation's fundraising motto, "Come home to Alumni House"). Meanwhile, the restoration workers have become the building's most ardent fans.

"The craftsmanship in it just makes me cry. It's almost a spiritual experience, it's so well done," rhapsodizes DAVE ROBBINS, the site supervisor of MILLBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS in Colchester. The general contractor's team rebuilt the porches and reinforced the wood columns with internal steel supports, among other contributions.

Robbins cites as particularly notable the distinctive hand-carved wood carvings that fill the triangular pediment of the dormer windows and the entry and side pediments of the porch coche. The last two depict smiling girls' faces in great raptures and a scowling one holding them good-bye. Their creator was Albert H. Whitcomb, a master woodcarver who set up shop in Woodstock in 1892 after executing carvings at the New York Public Library and other landmarks.

"These carvings are 120 years old, in original old-growth pine, and they're still in good shape," Robbins marvels. "That's 120 Vermont winters."

JOHN MANAGARA of VERMONTAN REFORMATION in Burlington, who is currently restoring the tower's curved bands of carved wooden panels in his workshop, discovered that they had been held together all this time merely with fingernails. "Fixing it all back together is like puzzle pieces," he says.

Robbins tells off more elements that seem to have

defied time. The stained-glass windows, with their floral designs and stained glass, he says, look like new after restoration by LAWRENCE HARRIS STUDIO in Burlington. And the stone roof was rebuilt by Williams' A.C. HARRISON using the original slate. "It looks like it was put on yesterday," he embraces.

"It was one of the most beautiful buildings in the state," agrees PAUL YULE of LARK RECREATIONAL RESTAURANT, the Essex Junction outfit in charge of restoring the mansion. The company has restored some beautiful Vermont landmarks, including the Mary Fletcher Building at Fletcher Allen Health Care and the state agriculture building in Montpelier.

Last's notes reported the second-story brick and the locally quarried, purple-and-tan dolomite stones used on the first floor, large sections of which they salvaged, cleaned and reusing using fresh mortar. For the latter job they had to fashion a unique jacking tool. "The mortar has a half-circle profile that sticks out," Last explains. "You can't buy kids like that anywhere. [With] a lot of this stuff, you have to recreate the old techniques."

Last's restoration will replace the house's five restored chimneys by crane—though probably not by laser fire—and HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS of Burlington is still working on putting the woodwork a daily race, a color discovered after scraping down to the original coat. But the house is in good enough shape to give tour-goers a pleasure that nowadays comes tagged with gaily a glimpse into the life of one of the early 1900s. ☺

B Burlington has a special 2015 annual theme, too. Celebrating more than 100 years, the city is celebrating its past and future and will be celebrating it this year. burlington2015.com



BOOK NEWS: PHOENIX RISES

PHOENIX BOOKS in Burlington has been open for several weeks, and now owners **NICHOL SEGARS** and **RENÉE SEGARS** are calling all book lovers to their grand opening weekend. It starts on Friday, June 8, with an 11:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony and Local Authors Day, an opportunity for Vermont writers to introduce themselves and sign up for the store's commitment program geared toward self-publishers. Phoenix will stock three copies of a local writer's book for at least six months. "No questions asked," says De Santo, but no money changes hands until the book sells. For a fee, authors can also master the store's resources for promotional events.

On Saturday Phoenix welcomes roving scribe **SONA HANDEL** at 2 p.m. and former Vermont governor **MADOLINE KAHN** at 4 p.m. The former will discuss her memoir *Pearls of a Sultan*; the latter her call to arms, *The New Feminist Agenda*.

Sunday the store will be devoted to lighter and tastier matters, with local cookbook author **ANABELA CHESTNUT** serving up samples from her latest, *The Pickled Pantry*, from 2 to 4 p.m.

More author visits are in the works. On Tuesday, June 10 at 7 p.m., fans of psychological thrillers can catch best-selling Edgar nominee John Lescroart reading from his latest, creepy high-concept novel *What Comes Next*.

Less than a year ago, Burlingtonians were bemoaning the closing of Borders, widely seen as the town's last seller of new books. But even before Phoenix stepped into the breach, **BOOKSHOP** had added a selection of new discounted hardcovers to its used inventory. Since April the Church Street store has also offered online shopping at crowsbooks.com. ☐

On May 31, the *New York Observer* reported that Lincoln author **BOHJALIAN** and his wife **VICTORIA BLONER** were "seeking refuge from cows and the quiet life" with their purchase of an upscale Manhattan co-op apartment. "So much for the charms of Vermont's quiet countryside," crowed reporter Ken Weisbe, and noted that "New York boating" Bohjalian hasn't always said glowing things about his years in the Big Apple.

Are we losing a Vermont author to the bright lights, big city? Bohjalian—whose new novel, *The Sandcastle Girls*, will be published on July 10—assures *Seven Days* of the contrary.

"No, we're never leaving Vermont," he writes. "We love Lincoln. It's really not complicated. For years and years Rebecca and I never needed an apartment in NYC because my mother-in-law lived there. But, sadly she died last year. The reality is that I am in NYC at least five or six nights every week, we still have lots of family there, and my daughter goes to NYU Tisch."

Local fans can rest easy—Bohjalian's best sellers will stay Made in Vermont. ☐

BY MARGOT HARRISON

PHOENIX BOOKS-BURLINGTON GRAND OPENING WEEKEND
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STATEofTHEarts

A Wallingford Artist Gives Old Furniture a Second, More Artful Life

BY MEGAN JAMES



There was plenty of work to be done when ~~2004~~ 1997 moved into her rambling old Wallingford farmhouse nearly a decade ago. But one thing in particular bothered her: a huge, built-in bath in the corner of the living room.

"I knew I had to do something," she says. But, rather than tear out the offending piece of furniture, she decided to make it her own. She stretched colorful linen — a decorative, fibrous Nepalese paper — over the entire piece, secured it with glue and finished it with polycarbonate. Instead of a hulking eyesore, the bath became a bright, whimsical focal point.

Over the next nine years, Talk, now 58, honed the technique, embellishing reclaimed furniture — pieces others had considered too far gone — with everything from latex paper to stamps to fancy soap labels. She calls the endeavor **RENEWALS** and recovers and sells the work online, at artists markets and Vermont home-furnishing stores such as the **GREENS** in Burlington.

Each piece is unique, but all have one detail in common: a small, winged heart with the words "Courage My Love."

The phrase has a double meaning for Talk. It was the name and logo of a Greenway Village clothing boutique her mother-in-law owned in the 1960s. And it ties in thematically with Talk's other passion: advocating for humane end-of-life care for frail elders.

During her 28 years working as a nurse, Talk began arguing for patients' rights to a natural death. "I've met Buddhists," she says, "but I've learned that we're all going to have to let go."

These days, she speaks and writes on the topic. "I know this sounds goofy," she says, "but as someone as I am about the end-of-life stuff, I try to send out love to people while I'm doing the furniture."

Talk sees a clear connection between resurrecting old and tables and writing about natural death for seniors and their families. So she stores each piece of furniture — the underside of a table or inside of a dresser — with her blog address, showing instructions.

The artist stores her finished work in a weathered red barn on the farm she and her husband call Pine Hollow. Prayer flags hang above the door to their house and flag in their orchard.

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stop a small fall. Taft's favorite isn't the only thing on the property that's reclaimed. The hoop house full of ducks and chickens is covered in vintage plastic billboard advertisements.

The lower level of the barn is filled with furniture in various states of repair, including a slightly disfigured desk Taft bought at an auction. Sometimes she picks up discarded chairs, tables and shelves on the side of the road. The only prerequisite "It's got to be functionally sound," says Taft. She describes her finished work as "strong, beautiful and imperfect."

Upstairs in the barn, those finished pieces are piled into a bay. One is made from a vintage wooden Vermont state park parking sign. Another is adorned with pages from 1890s cookbooks. One striking black and red chair with an attached writing desk is decorated with portraits from a 1941 Minsk, NY, yearbook that Taft found at a winter-trader station. It's likely that many of the young men in that book went off to fight in World War II, she says, and some probably never returned.

Back in her house, Taft keeps rolls of rainbow-colored toilet paper and boxes filled with paper scraps she might use in

TAFT DESCRIBES HER
FINISHED WORK AS
"STRONG,
BEAUTIFUL
AND
IMPERFECT."

future pieces. Then Taft labels, definitions cut from old dictionaries, elegant soap packaging. "It kind of offends me that someone makes these beautiful labels, and then we just throw them away," Taft says.

So she doesn't. She knows she'll find a home for them sometime, maybe on an old desk or a beat-up barn door. ☺

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ORIGINAL MEDIA REPORT BY SEVEN DAYS

Dear Cecil,
I've heard that instead of heading to an old folk home when you reach that age, it's actually cheaper (and personally easier for me) to go on an endless cruise. All the meals are covered, apparently first-rate medical attention is available, and they get to see the world. It also means you don't have to take a bus to visit a casino. If you don't need 24/7 medical care, is a cruise the way to go?

Brian

I'm not sure if this is a true answer to what a bargain cruise ship really is an indicator of the greatest cost-savings. But at first glance at least, a long-term cruise, so to speak, looks like a pretty good deal.

Booking yourself an extended cruise isn't much different from personally checking into a luxury hotel. In each case you get good service, without maintenance is needed, and you never have to cook another meal in your life. With a hotel, though, you're stuck in one place, whereas on a cruise ship you can get to just about any interesting coastal locale on Earth.

In 2004, geriatrics doctors Lee Lindquist and Robert Golub studied the trade-offs between a permanent care bed on an assisted



Illustration by David Coverly

living facility, which serves seniors who need help with daily activities but not constant attention. They didn't intend the comparison to include nursing homes, presumably due to the difficulty of caring for elderly people with serious mobility or health management issues aboard a ship. They found the annual average rate for assisted living was about \$79 per day, or \$28,548 per year. There was considerable variation: Chicago-area

assisted living care was nearly \$44,000 a year and homes for the upper crust approached \$50,000. But even using the average figure, the cruise option cost only \$34,121 more over 30 years.

The authors placed a lot of value on the greater amenities available on cruise ships. Although sleeping rooms are likely to be smaller on a ship, common and noncommon areas are larger and more numerous. Cruise ships have a much higher employee-to-guest ratio than assisted living facilities. All needs are provided, with escorts if needed, and laundry, hair

salons and other white-glove services are common. Conclusions? For roughly the same money as assisted living, cruising gives you a much better quality of life.

Sound too good to be true? My guess is that is probably so. There's no indication Lindquist and Golub ran their little scheme past a cruise-hoat opponent to see if it would actually work. As anyone who's dealt with elderly parents knows, by the time most people are ready for assisted living, they're just the guest where an endless cruise would be anywhere near as much fun as it sounds.

Lindquist and Golub tacitly acknowledge this. They say the ideal cruise candidate must be sharp and capable of managing living. But they also say more than half of those in assisted living facilities suffer from dementia and a quarter have been diagnosed as depressed. Even if you don't fall into those categories, you're still likely to require a lot more maintenance than cruise ships are accustomed to providing — help with bathing and going to the toilet, and maybe just getting out of bed.

Ironically, the elderly are going to have a lot more medical issues than cruise ships are setup to handle. First of all, onboard medical staff are often stretched thin even under normal circumstances. One study of medical care on a world cruise found that with an average passenger count of about 700 and a staff complement of around 340, medical

personnel saw an average of 37 patients per day for everything from the usual colds and cuts to cardiac arrest. Overall, cruise-ship doctors run two to three times as many patients as their land-based colleagues.

In addition, while onboard medical staffers are generally well trained, they don't include the range of specialists the elderly typically use on a regular basis. If an emergency arises that they're not ready for and they can't wait until the ship reaches the next port, your shipboarder's rule is almost certainly going to be an airlift, which can be expensive and logistically problematic.

A long cruise exposes you to passengers from different countries with varying levels of health care and vaccination. Cruise-passengers can swoop through a ship — the Centers for Disease Control lists more than 150 serious outbreaks of gastrointestinal ailments on international cruise vessels from 2005 to date. In 2006, for example, more than 490 of 3446 passengers on the cruise ship Celebrity Mercury developed diarrhea and vomiting due to a virus. That's not pleasant for anybody, but the elderly suffer more.

And let's face it. Cruise travel, just like you and me, gets old. We in the developed world can enjoy a cruise or some other adventure quite late in life by historical standards. But the day will come when we'll realize to nothing greater than the comfort of friends and family and a quiet place to sit.

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Tall Orders

BY JERRY BLAIR

How do you fix a 200-foot-high wind turbine? After all, it's a little high to lean a ladder against. You call a guy like Brian Waters, a former staff president at the University of Vermont's indoor climbing wall who works as a rope-access technician. Not nearly a year, Waters, 25, has climbed up and rappelled down wind turbines and other tall structures around the country with Ropeworks, a firm, New-based, rope-access company between traveling to jobs at sites such as the Middle River Wind Farm northwest of Philadelphia, N.J., where he lives in Burlington. What does he do in his time off? Naturally he climbs, finishing Keene Valley in the Adirondacks. Snow Days meet up with Waters over tea at Magliacero Café to ask him more about the high life.

SEVEN DAYS: How'd you break into this business?

BRIAN WATERS: My dad showed me a newspaper article from the New York Times about one of our competitor [rope-access] companies. He said, "You know, this would be a fun job for you." Kind of half-jest. You're just got to make the class and pass the test. [I did] and then I got the job.

SD: What did the class consist of? Was it similar to one you do as a climber?

BW: It's not the same kinds of things that you use climbing. In rope access, we use two ropes for redundancy—everything is redundant. We have a full-body harness. Our descending device automatically locks. We use mechanical ascenders. So there are different tools, and the techniques that we use in rope access are different. Now I learned a whole bunch of maneuvers in my [climb] that I had never even heard of before, like rope-to-rope transfer or rebelay.

SD: What do you climb, and what's it like when you get to the top?

BW: Almost all the work I've done is the last year has been wind power. [Ropeworks does] other things—so do oil refineries, bridges, hydro dams. We've done the Space Shuttle and Mount Rushmore and all kinds of weird things like that. It can be pretty weird, but most of my experience has been on the wind.

What's it like up there? It's windy. I don't know. I love it, it's—how do I describe it? Sometimes I take pictures. Wind jobs tend to be pretty photogenic, and a lot of times, we have a camera because we're doing inspection, so if I see something cool, I'm always taking shots of it. But at the [old] refinery, there's no camera allowed. You have to have a special license for hot work because they're concerned about sparks.

SD: It's funny—that's almost more dangerous than wind work.

BW: Totally. People think that working up high is dangerous. I guess working at height, no matter what you're doing, is inherently dangerous. But rope-access people, for whatever reason, maybe it's because we're more exposed to risk, or maybe it's because of just the type of people that are attracted to rope access, we're really diligent about safety. I always say, if something's gonna hurt me, it's not gonna be a fall—I'll get electrocuted or something.

SD: Do you ever work in bad weather conditions?

BW: We've worked in cold, but we won't work if it's too windy [or] if it's raining. If you're on a big, giant structure that's designed to rotate in the wind, and you're hanging, it just doesn't seem like a good idea to be out there if the wind is really kicking.

SD: Does the term "rope-access technician" give rise to jokes about rats?

BW: No, it doesn't, for some weird reason. I've suggested it a few times, and no one seems to think it's funny [laughs].

SD: What exactly do you do up there?

BW: Sometimes we'll do blade inspection, where we're looking for defects and documenting them and making reports. We've done blade cleaning. We do mechanical stuff inside the tower. Refineries have hundreds or thousands of miles of pipes in them, and all of those pipes need to be inspected every so often.

SD: You travel a lot. How does that work?

BW: We go out and we work for a couple weeks. We get lots of overtime and work really hard, and we come home and we're got anywhere from a week to a month to hangout, have some fun, do whatever we want. Some guys are total climbing bugs, other people are running a business.

We spend most of our time in the Midwest. If you look at a [rope] wind map of the United States, it's all weird, jumbled areas because it depends on the ridges/lines, maybe it's higher [in some places]. But then, as soon as you go from the Rockies to Iowa, there's, like, a vertical band that's totally purple. That's where all the work is in the United States: Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota. We tend to go to really rural places—they'll fly us into Oklahoma City, and we drive, like, two hours out into the cornfields.

SD: When you're up there, are you in a Zan-Iba mode, or is your heart pounding?

BW: Well, I'll tell you, my heart was pounding on my first day at work [laughs]. But it's like anything else—we work really hard to make sure everything is safe. So you can work confidently knowing that everything's gonna be OK, and after you do it a couple of times, it's not scary anymore. You can just get out there and do your job. ☺

FWaters is a former Ivy League climber who, after being a University of Vermont student athlete, is now a professional rope-access technician. He can be reached at brian@ropeworks.com.



PHOTO BY JERRY BLAIR



On your left, Jeanne Collins was stepped out as Vermont's No. 1 school superintendent. The Vermont Superintendents Association selected Burlington's top administrator because she "prioritizes the needs, services and commitment," the press release read. The Burlington School District, Vermont's largest, responded with its own new bulletin hailing Collins, 51, as an "effective, collaborative leader."

Now, just 12 months later, the state's celebrated superintendent of the Year finds more than her reign coming to an end. Collins is at risk of losing her job. A report last October from the district's Task Force on Diversity and Equity — along an achievement gap between students of color and their white peers in Burlington — has sparked attacks of heated allegations of institutional racism within the BSD.

Increasingly, the attacks have been directed at Collins, who got her start in Burlington schools directing programs for students learning English as a second language. As superintendent, she has been credited with establishing Vermont's first two public magnet schools, improving after school programming, and developing new hiring and professional-development positions to improve staff diversity.

Next week, the school board is meeting to decide whether to renew her contract.

How did it come to this? School board member Hank Feltus described the situation as a "perfect storm." It was more like an avalanche. In January, Burlington High School math teacher David Jacobson related some of the attitudes in the task force report. He was promptly accused of being a racist. One leader at the local minority community, Juan Martinez de Ochoa, later issued a press release on behalf of aggrieved minority students who were named as past or present racism in the district. She called them the "final straw."

In February, Trevor Christopher resigned as principal of the Integrated Arts Academy at BHS. Although he stated that race played a part in his decision, he did not reveal any specific complaints to the press. Three, two weeks ago, Christopher went public with a different complaint. He had tried to recruit his resignation, but the school board refused — because he is African American, Christopher claims. Students, too, have weighed in. A group of

African refugee teenagers protested outside of the high school in April, expressing their displeasure that Rome labeled them "statistical outliers." They argued that English-language learners don't get enough resources and that their academic potential could not — and should not — be judged by scores on standardized tests. And they carried signs that said, "End Racism at RIS."

The accumulation of race-related complaints "creates the impression of a whole narrative from a distance," Redson says, that makes headlines and sells newspapers.

What's really going on? The conversation around equity and diversity in the district has advanced in recent weeks from the big picture problem of student achievement to the superintendent, who arguably bears responsibility for the culture of the school district. Ed Collins addressed issues of equity and diversity earlier, but opponents say the schools might not be caught up in the conflict.

But Collins is an easy target in a debate that, so far, has been rather on-specious.

"Why not 'Why not?'" Collins asks rhetorically while asserting that he's personally qualified to lead Burlington schools through this troubled time. Depending on what the school board decides next week, those questions could take on different meaning.

Still the Whitest

It's no surprise that the "conversation about diversity" — the police even for it — has started and grown ever louder in Burlington's schools. Schools are where change happens within community, says Kyle Dodson, director of the Community Services and Civil Engagement Program at Champlain College and parent to three biracial students in the USD. He points to the nation's complicated, sometimes violent history of desegregation in public schools as evidence that the classroom is often the front line for racial tensions in the US.

"One would be really pressed to argue that some here [Burlington] exists outside of that context," Dodson says.

The difference, of course, is that the demographic shift from a mostly white, homogeneous community to a more diverse one is relatively recent in Burlington.

Vermont's population is 94.3 percent Caucasian, according to 2010 census data, making it the whitest state in the nation.

The state's cultural identity is also largely progressive and liberal — which doesn't jibe with a coexistence of bias. Lindsay Ruff, a 34-year-old African American woman who, starting in 2010, worked as an AmeriCorps volunteer at RIS as an acting French-speaking immigrant, she says that when she brings up concerns about discrimination among white friends or colleagues, the response is often something along the lines of "Why are you saying this about us here Vermonters?"

Diverse Doubter agrees. The longtime volunteer coordinator of the Reading to End Racism program in Burlington says that Vermont likes to consider itself a "post-racial state" — owing to its 18th-century abolitionism of slavery, its role in the Underground Railroad and its support of biracial cinema. "It's all hype," says Doubter.

Compared with the rest of the state, though, Burlington is a veritable melting pot. Roughly 13 percent of the Queen City's population is nonwhite. The schools are even more diverse; students of color make up slightly less than 30 percent of the total student body.

Thirty days is large part to the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program, which has been bringing refugees to Chittenden County for roughly 30 years — in recent years, about 350 individuals annually. Where the program once brought in groups of Bosnian and Vietnamese people, now it's mostly Bhutanese, Burmese, Somali and Iraqi.

Refugees tend to be young parents whose children enroll in Vermont schools. Just in 2010, the percentage of students of color in the schools has doubled. In 2009, when Collins joined the district as the director of special education and the English language learners program, the district had 130 students enrolled in ELL classes designed to bring nonnative English speakers up to speed. By 2012, there were 330.

Robert Appel, the executive director of the Vermont Human Rights Commission,



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worries that Vermont's refugee population may be reluctant to report instances of discrimination. He points out that students must have the consent of a parent to file a complaint, and while refugees are often anxious about spending up against a powerful institution, "It's risky," he says. "There are relatively small communities, and people are afraid of retaliation and exclusion."

VHRC has received 41 complaints of violations of civil or human rights against Vermont schools in the last seven years. It found reasonable grounds for the complaint in four cases, dismissed 23 without finding such evidence and has seen 14 settled prior to a decision.

These complaints are all confidential — and the fact that these aren't often blatant, public violations of racism makes it that much harder for white Vermonters to understand the complaints.

"We, as white folks, are not subjected to the shaming, the ridicule, the anger, the exclusion, the refusal to engage in conversation or touch," says Appel. "It's really

cheap, I can honestly say that in the four years I've been here... there's been significant change, but I can also say, from the outside of my mouth, that it hasn't been fast enough."

One of the successes that Rubin points to is in regard to the number of staff members of color who have been hired, particularly in the last two years. Students have been people of color — but that's not sufficient, says de Cuba, who points to the "institutional glut of talented and unempowered educators and administrators" who could step in to replace white employees resistant to change.

Meanwhile, the data paint a picture — that has been depicted — of how race affects student achievement. The Task Force on Diversity and Equity report unveiled in October sketched out a five-year road map for improving student achievement and school climate, drawing on "best practices" and "at who caused the inequality."

The report also unveiled statistical differences in achievement and treatment in the schools. While 2010 data showed that students of color made up 33 percent of the student body, the report stated that only

To bring [Superintendent Collins] down now will create a divide

in this community that threatens to tear us apart.

RABBI JOSHUA CHASIN

difficult for people who don't experience that to accept and understand that report."

Along similar lines, the district's Diversity and Equity Office unanimously increased 11 staff members for a pilot study on school climate and retention. Dan Rubin, who directs the office, says the study was meant to establish a baseline against which future interventions can be measured. Though, since unveiled, several staff members consciously voiced feelings of isolation and discomfort when within the district. "The power-aggressive nature of racism we're experiencing now is much more than when the hostility and aggression was out in the open — at least you knew who was against you," one said. Right said that they wouldn't recommend that a faculty member be forced work in the district.

A few were more positive. "Their hearts are certainly in the right place," one reviewer said. "I think it's a super district to work for."

Rubin, for one, is trying to walk the tightrope between the district and social inequality activists. "I'm going to sound like I'm talking out of both sides of my mouth," he says. "I wanted change yesterday, now" but "as someone who is working within the institution, and acknowledging all of the different influences on organizational

13 percent of students taking and passing Algebra I were minorities. Students of color also made up a disproportionate number — 34 percent — of those being punished with in-school suspensions. Black students made up 13 percent of the student body but accounted for 27 percent of out-of-school suspensions throughout the district.

"I think that what people are arguing for is a threat district that believe 'we can do better,'" says Stephanie Legolas, an economics professor at the University of Vermont and a member of Diversity Now, a group of parents and higher-education professionals who've provided outside analysis of school's district data.

But the numbers became a point of contention just months after the task force report was released, most notably when Rubin's response revealed many of the statistics. Rubin, a math teacher, not only criticized the numbers — pointing out, for instance, that drop-out rates among black students were significantly lower than indicated in the report — he also called for the school board to reject the report altogether.

Rubin's reaction landed him on a story on the front page of the Burlington Free

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Prize — and prompted calls from activists for him to be "silenced." As a result, many white community members and teachers may they are afraid to voice their opinion. At a May 20 school board meeting, BHS English teacher Eve Ibrahim described the situation as "intimidating."

Activists see it differently. They say that teachers who are defending the superintendent, or questioning claims of discrimination in the schools, are just joining in their heels and protecting their own jobs.

"There are elements that are fighting really hard to maintain the status quo," says Kenneth Piles, an African American Wisconsin resident.

De Gushkes stronger words. "They fought and resisted change long and hard in the South," she wrote in an email to Seven Days. "Change is inevitable — it will happen with or without some one next still on board!"

A Question of Leadership

Whether or not recent events at Vermont continue to be defined as public racism — with white parents colluding or children "color blind" and others homogenizing subtle discrimination and "micro-aggressions" registered in the course of day-to-day life. The bigger question now seems to be how the school and Collins have responded to students and community members' complaints that racism does exist.

In recent weeks, their tones have become confrontational.

"I do recognize the racism and harassment that's happening at the Burlington school," says Collins.

An education law firm is still not good enough for Dadson. "The current climate demands that the leader makes it clear to folks that we currently have a very different school district than we've had 10 years ago," he says. "Without someone steering the conversation, Dadson adds, "we end up squabbling or quibbling back and forth about where in that report. I don't really care whether it's 15 points or 12 points, it's still out of bed. We've got work to do."

Collins admits she was slow to react to this year's gathering storm — she said as much as a May 15 public apology that appeared in the Burlington Free Press, and the school the weekend again at a press conference last week at which she unveiled a new plan called "Diversity Our Gift and Our Future" which Collins began will close the achievement gap at the schools. She calls the additional professional training and desegregation, and for recognizing top-level management to create a climate of diversity, a diversity of equity, and a recruitment and retention specialist.

But just as soon as Collins had laid out the rest of her plan, the press conference turned personal, with reporters grilling

her and school board chair Keith Pillsbury about the superintendent's future in the district and her response to the ongoing controversy. "The major mistake that I made is that I was responding to a harassment," said Collins, adding that, then new on her term, "has to be in this."

Collins' loss — increasingly personal as she campaigns, in a sense, to keep her job — might be the result of some coaching from a strategic communications firm. Montpelier-based KSE Partners, The Burlington School District, along with Wisconsin's, received \$17 million in February from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation for a three-and-a-half year project called Partnerships for Change.

The Nellie Mae grant has given as some funds to work with a communications company just for six weeks to help get our message out about diversity and equity within the district," Collins says. The funding for KSE totals about \$4,000. Asked if the decision to hire the firm came in direct response to the controversy

the battles really will have won, and the students will lose?

It was later in the meeting that Rob Abbey, a third-grade teacher in the district and the president of the teachers union, asked the question that many others danced around: "How do you eliminate racism in our communities and the schools because more about power and politics than helping the students?"

It's a question few are willing to answer on the record. Yet, as the conversation around race — and, more recently, about Collins — has grown more heated, other teachers have started bawling. Is Collins a scapegoat in the push to cut the superintendent solely about racism, or is there some agenda — be it personal gain, the quest for headlines or anything for Collins' job — at work behind the scenes?

Religious families in particular seem at risk of getting lost in the shuffle. After a group of African students protested on BHS grounds, then later traveled to the Statehouse to testify before lawmakers

Within the school, what we really value and want to celebrate is the yearly progress that students make given their starting point.

AMY MELLENCAMP

debate of weeks past, Collins says Nellie Mae approached the district with the offer — not the other way around.

As if on cue, Collins' supporters are starting to speak up. At a school board meeting on May 25, dozens of the BHS referees and were before established with "Dear Our Superintendent." Collins' backers stood up one after the other to plead their case to the board. Of the 29 or so community members who spoke at the meeting, all but two or three supported Collins.

There's method. The schools aren't perfect, but teachers, parents and administrators are working hard to improve. Change may not come as fast as some would like best, to their minds, Collins is the right person to shepherd it. In a village community about the importance of civility and not passing fingers, the superintendent's supporters also sketched in the subsequent criticisms hurled against her and the district in school board meetings earlier this spring.

"Though other voices have been louder in recent weeks and months, I urge the board to drive out a wider range of perspectives before making the important decisions," said BHS Parents, adding that the school board meetings were an understanding forum for many in the school community. "I think it's most possible during the board could do nothing but to be shouted into a quick decision. Then

about discrimination in the schools, their parents converged on the high school for two meetings with school administrators. They were surprised and concerned to see their children present in the newspaper. BHS explains: Amy Mellicamp says administrators considered the families that, in the United States, such protests weren't going to limit the teachers in their water.

The parents also told Mellicamp they weren't acquainted with the adults who were reaching out to their children. They asked the school to "run conferences" as much as possible, when their kids are approached by reporters and other community organizers.

"They talked about people coming to their students and giving them a lot of things. They didn't know who those people were," Mellicamp says. "The reaction from the parents was to focus on academic progress." De Gushkes is still acting as a go-between for students and the media, but kind and other minority leaders in the community scold at occasions about a hidden agenda in the debate.

"I don't know who would have anything to gain from having the focus," says Dadson. And she and others say their criticisms of Collins aren't personal — they're simply asking tough questions about school leadership.

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Color Bind

Jill Morgan Chase BSM or Fletcher Allen Health Care issued a softbox or put out a third product, she says, people understandably take a hard look at the company's chief executive. Why should a school district be any different?

"It's harder down here to have a vision. They have to be kind of the capo. They have to anticipate problems, and they have to be able to bring the community together," says Jorgensen.

"It's really not wrong that from the superintendent," adds Reed.

Then, Collier's critics and supporters alike say the focus should be on students.

"If success exists in schools, we are called to respond, and not look at it as if someone's pointing fingers," says Dearbor. "Students are in need, and we need to look at the bigger picture."

What are students saying? When the group of mostly Congolese and Somali students walked out of classes at noon in April, they were angry about the use of state test scores to evaluate their progress and academic potential. The students' concerns — about the difficulty of making friends across cultural barriers and about the rigor of their academic programs — are all genuine, says BHS principal McIlwain.

She's especially sympathetic to their concerns about test scores, given that as refugee students are being lumped into the same pool as native English speakers who've worked their way through the school system since kindergarten.

"Part of the world's issues, perhaps, is that community members should feel really proud of the fact that students who come to us with very little or no experience in reading or writing — we take them in, we teach them how to read and write, and we advance them as fast as they can go," says McIlwain. "At the school, what we really value and want to celebrate is the very progress that students make given their starting point."

But in clarifying her position, and in pointing out racism — which do count — McIlwain says she's defensive. That's part of the problem, according to Redwood.

Like says McIlwain and Collier both need to learn how to respond to accusations to learn, and respect the validity of people's feelings when they make a complaint. It's the default position for any leader to defend the record of his or her institution. Redwood says, but "that's something we have to grow out of."

The Devil We Know

If the Burlington School Board fails to renew Collier's contract next week, the youngest she would leave in June 2003. Still, Judah Chase, one of her most vocal supporters, points out that would most likely delay the change her opponents are clamoring for.

And, of course, there's no guarantee

that Collier's replacement would be any more acceptable in the community's eyes.

"You might hope for somebody better, but you might not find anybody," admits Redwood. That logic led her to vote to extend Collier's contract two years ago. She was the devil he knew, he says, rather than the devil he didn't.

"I really like Judah," Redwood says. He says she's a hard worker with a "real deal" leadership style. In that mind, she's been successful in managing the day-to-day work of educating thousands of children — a not unenviable task, he says, that sometimes gets overlooked in the current debate. "I'm not always happy with her but I have to keep in mind the magnitude of the job she's doing. I think that's dedicated to all children, and I certainly don't think she's right."

Given her May apology, and her new action plan, Chase says he's baffled by the continued calls for Collier's ouster. "Write to me concerned who anyone else's heart, I am concerned that some minds are not open to what has happened," says the rabbi who describes Collier as a sensitive and thoughtful leader who deserves a show of public support. "Her documents in this are really."

He worries that some members of the school board have been "misinformed" by Collier's outspoken opponents, and says that while he's hopeful the school board "will do the right thing," he's concerned they won't, and that's true.

"The longer that's down now will create a divide in the community that threatens to tear us apart," Chase says.

Dodson, facing through Collier's action plan, calls it "clearly the boldest action" of the district's stand on diversity to date. He has cited words such as "hard report" and "redefine" and "disseminate" in the past, and says it's the first time he's seen this kind of decisive language since the commission from an institutional standpoint. "I'm glad to see that," Dodson says, adding that the school board's role is to support the school district's mission.

Asked if the report was more than about the direction of the district under its current leadership, however, Dodson shakes his head, citing the history of ineffectual action. "No. This statement could have been made some time ago."

Collier has a response for that, too. "What's being said at my first night now is at least ten decades of superstitions which have never put in place something sustainable," she says. "OK, I'm sitting here, I get this. But it also goes on. I'm the one who has the opportunity now to right now it's the little, too late. But it's not enough reason to not do it." Q

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The Best Is Still to Come

Jimmy Cliff shepherds in a new era of his career

BY DAN BELLES



There were a Mount Rushmore of reggae superstars, Jimmy Cliff's smiling visage would be etched in stone alongside giants such as Bob Marley and Peter Dinklage. Cliff, 64, is considered an originator of the genre and remains one of its most identifiable stars. His nearly 50-year career has produced some of reggae's enduring hits, including "You Can Get It if You Really Want" and "Many Rivers to Cross." Both of those songs are on the soundtrack of cult classic film *The Harder They Come*, in which Cliff starred. Artists ranging from Paul Simon to Bob Dylan to Joe Strummer have cited him as an inspiration. In 2010, Cliff was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Despite these accolades and a global archive, Cliff is not content to rest on his laurels. In fact, to hear him tell it, he still hasn't produced his finest work. In 2010, Cliff released an EP, *Seven Days*, recorded with Barack's *Van Amstel*. That project led to a

forthcoming full-length collaboration, *Rebirth*, due out this month, on which Cliff reportedly goes back to his ska, rocksteady and reggae roots.

Seven Days recently chatted with Cliff by phone in advance of his upcoming performance at the Waterfront Time on Saturday, June 8, as part of the 2012 Bar/Bagton Discover June Festival.

MUSIC

SEVEN DAYS: Tell me a little about this new record, the *Seven Days* EP

and *Rebirth*. What were the concepts behind them?

JIMMY CLIFF: *Seven Days* was about the secrets I've learned as a man, and the fire that has been burning in me as an artist for all these years. There are things that I've not yet to do but have yet to accomplish.

SD: What kinds of secrets?

JC: Well, if I told you, they wouldn't be secrets, now, would they?

SD: Good point. I suppose not. And *Rebirth*?

JC: I extended that idea into *Rebirth*. The things that I had yet to accomplish, those are the things that are coming out now.

SD: It's interesting to hear you say that, because it would seem that you've accomplished a lot. What kinds of things?

JC: When I started my career, I had this global outlook. I wanted to make a lot of No. 1 hits all over the world and become a stadium act, which I haven't done. But my first love was acting, and I really want to win an Oscar. So even though I have become an international artist and am recognized all over the world and have accomplished quite a bit, those lofty dreams I set have yet to be accomplished. And I've not yet written my best songs. Those are the things.

SD: Having been doing this for so long, are those the things that drive you now?

JC: Yes. All of those things. I still have those songs in me, but they are not really ripe yet. They're not ready to come out and [be] put into the public. And I haven't gotten the right script to do the acting that will bring me the Oscar. So that keeps the fire burning.

SD: You were there to witness the evolution of ska into rocksteady and then into reggae. Can you tell me about that and how it relates to Jamaican history?

JC: This is an interesting question for me. There is a song on my new album called "Reggae Music." And I'm telling the story of reggae and myself as an artist, from the time I found Leslie King, who was my first producer, and he had my record my first songs in the style of ska. And I take it from that time, 1962, all the way up to 2012, and all of the journeys and transitions.

Ska music was upbeat and came out of a political situation, a fight for independence. Then it slowed down

and transformed into racism, when the people asked, "Well, what is this independence?" Then it transformed into reggae, so all of those sounds and all of those different rhythms came out of those different spirits. And I have kind of put all of that history, I think kind of successfully, into a three-and-a-half-minute song.

SD: That's quite a feat. You spent a lot of time in England, and he's a hero in introducing reggae and ska there. And the meeting of Jamaican music and punk also centered on political strife. What was that time like?

JC: It was a time in England where the social and political scene affected the young musicians that were growing up there. And they grew up listening to reggae music, which inspired and

getting richer and the poor getting poorer. And that was the same kind of thing that was going on in America and that inspired the punk-rock era. And it's still going on today.

SD: As one of the originators of reggae, what are your thoughts on how the genre has progressed into the present era?

JC: So we moved from ska to exclusively to reggae to dub-a-dub to dub and all of the different styles, and now we are in dancehall. And there are two sides to what we call dancehall. There is still the roots and culture side. But it is interesting to me. The dancehall, rhythmically, is really good. But what they're saying on top of that is simply about girls and cars and capes and... And there is much more to life than that for me. So I'm glad to see the roots and culture side still there.

SD: Most people know the beginning from the early days of reggae. But I wonder if there are some lesser-known artists you think people should know about.

JC: There was Desmond Dekker, who had hits like "Israelites." And there are some newer people, like Tarrus Riley and Queen Ifrica, that I think people should keep their eyes on.

SD: You were instrumental in the early days of Bob Marley's career and have said that you view yourself as a shepherd. Can you tell me about that role?

JC: A shepherd opens the gate and lets the sheep go through, and then closes the gate and allows the sheep to feed in the new pasture. And that has kind of been my role, which is more of a pioneering role. That's what I have been doing all my life. It's not a role that I chose. It's just something that I happen to do naturally. I enjoy it. And that role is still going on today. ☺

THERE ARE THINGS THAT
I'VE SET OUT TO DO
BUT HAVE
YET TO
ACCOMPLISH.

JIMMY FITECH

influenced them a lot. Joe Strummer and the Clash were among them. And when they wrote "[The] Guns of Brixton," I could identify with that song and, you, partly because they mention *The Marley They Came to It*. But also because I saw what was going on in Brixton at that time. It was a very interesting time over there.

SD: Do you see parallels between those times and the social issues happening here and in Europe now?

JC: Yes. There is the same element of injustice that is rattling what you guess are the social lives of the people. Injustice and substance. The rich

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SIDEdishes

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

Bridge to Tomorrow

FROM A GREEN CUP SPACE
 TO A BAKERY

Less than a year after damage from Tropical Storm Irene forced celebrated Wakefield restaurant the Green Cup Café to close, the building at 40 Bridge Street that housed it will soon be active again.

"From a closure comes a rebirth of some new businesses," says **JASON GILKINSON**, former chef-owner of the Green Cup. The restaurant itself will not return, but, he says, "It definitely plays a huge role in the circle of life on Bridge Street."

Gilkinson still owns the building, and two of the businesses that will fill it are keeping things on the family his side, **LISA CURTIS**, is the baker-owner of **SWEET SIMONE'S**. His brother-in-law, **JOHN**

WILCO, is opening an ice cream business called **SCOUT'S HONOR** that shares space with the bakery behind a storefront labeled the **MEAT MARKET**. That location was previously home to the retail store of **Urban Outfitters**, which was destroyed by flooding before it could open as planned on September 3, 2010.

What's to become of the Green-Cup space? If all goes well, **PLANTAT** will open there on August 1. **JOHN HARRIS** of **EAST HAVEN VINEYARD** serves as its owner and chef. The restaurant's slogan is "A simple feast," and the menu will focus on classic Tuscan dishes such as meatballs braised in white wine and rosemary, pork brisolate, and pasta in mushroom-Gorgonzola cream sauce. "It's definitely going to be rustic," says Harris, but he

notes that the fare won't be exclusively Italian. He plans himself on his pasta, casseroles and omelets to visit.

A New York native who spent 27 years working on the stock exchange, Albert has embraced the country life since he relocated to Vermont a decade ago. He decided on September 11, 2003, to make the move, after

FAMILY'S MARKET for three years. They hope to start occupying it at the new shop before the Sweet Spot's projected opening on June 15.

That's not all — the couple went to take their business-side ice cream novelties on the road. "We're going to rock it out in a pink VW bus," says Vito. He compares himself to the Good Humor man, offering ice pops, ice cream sand-wiches, donuts and slices of ice cream cake from the bus. The pair hope to feed the summer festival crowd as well as Barn, Maple and the Burlington waterfront.

Back at the shop, customers can try classic flavors and quirky experiments at **Alison's Bakery**. Vito uses his own eggs and berries in his ice cream. Dairy comes from **MONMOUTH FARMS**, but other ingredients, such as the two types of vanilla he uses in the vanilla ice cream, are simply chosen for their quality. Vito says he especially

likes crafting a variety of chocolate flavors, such as salted chocolate and chocolate-horshoe with candied orange. For "Sunday Sandwiches," he's making his own toppings, incorporating hot fudge, candied fruit, and cookies and wafers. Waffle cones and cookie dough shells will also be homemade, and **Sterna Gilkinson** is making creative ice-cream cakes for gluten-free customers or who can consume neither.

Cookies from Sweet Simone's may show up at the shop, too, says Curtis. At the shop's primary business is a commercial baked-cake shop, pies and the Green Cup's homemade cake for special orders. But she'll offer plenty of take-out baked goods for casual customers, as well as coffee and espresso.

To cover some of the

equipment, electrical work and plumbing expenses, Curtis has launched a Kickstarter campaign for the Sweet Spot. Donors will be rewarded with pies or ice cream. But for money, again, 40 Bridge Street thrives again will be recompense enough.

—A.L.

Cream Top

BUTTERY BAKED ALBERT, 3075
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It's curious that a village that's home to the biggest creamery in the Northeast has been without a sit-down restaurant for years.

That began to change when **Lyndeeville's CREAMERY** drove by a yellow-label building — the old Cabot Inn, built in the 1890s — that advertised itself as a fully equipped restaurant for lease. Almost on the spot, **Lemarchand** decided to reuse his trucker's pad and make his dream of opening his own restaurant.

In May, he and his family opened **sevens RESTAURANT**, a 36-seat eatery that focuses on the hearty dishes Lemarchand perfected during his adolescent years cooking at Massachusetts diners, and later as a cook at the **Masana's Grand Lodge** of Vermont in Barreville and the **Lyndeeville Club** near his home.

For the record, **sevens** does not own **sevens**. "Butters started out as a nickname of mine," says Lemarchand, and it seemed to match perfectly both the hue of his new eatery and Cabot's rep as center of all things creamy.

Longways and Italian dishes are menu staples, as are a mid-cut tripe, burger, moose, bialmas, pulled pork and a twist on chicken **Corbin** Blue called **Chicken Fun Man** Chien.

Butters is open for lunch and dinner four days a week, with a breakfast brunch on Sundays.

—C.H.

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May 31 birthday. She looks exactly like her somewhat bigger brother and has already developed a strong and clear voice. We're betting that mom and dad, Marianna Ponziani and Ed Berry, are going to have their hands full too but it's pretty clear they are up to the task. This sweet family lives in Peacham. CVMC wishes them all the best.



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food

All Mixed Up by Patti

It was, I paid, for the meat and got the things for free. I'd been anxious this dinner party was going to break the bank, especially when I'd decided to buy largely local. And I hadn't intended to invite 10 people. I'm a nervous hostess, the kind who worries that no one is going to show up, so I just kept larfing people - and everyone and yes.

When I finished my shopping, I added up the damages: \$66. This was going to be the cheapest dinner party ever!

I raced home to get started. It was already 12:30. I had six and a half hours. When a friend called to ask if I needed anything, I made the executive decision to mix the free-scratch garlic bread. "Pick up a couple baguettes!" I asked.

at the beginning of a recipe - when the project should be started a day in advance? Why must the instructions to leave something overnight always appear halfway down the page?

Pick it, I decided. I'm making the ice cream anyway. If it melts out at all, we can spoon it over the chocolate cake like cold, strawberry cream. Yes.

It was almost 2 p.m. I made simple custard with milk, cream, eggs and sugar and whisked it for what seemed an eternity. Why wasn't it the least? I knew that if I let it cool, I'd end up with scrambled eggs. But I didn't have a thermometer. So I watched vigilantly for the slightest change and kept my nose on high alert in case the cake was burning.

My heart was pounding because I'd



A little more than an hour in - after the cake was safely in the oven - I hit my first snag. I hadn't agreed my of the attachment, boom, yet, let alone read their instruction manuals. The ice cream maker came with a frightening number of complicated-looking pictos and a quick-and-dirty instruction sheet, which, advised, to my dismay, storing the bowl in the freezer for 15 hours before beginning an ice cream project. Yes, 15 hours.

I found no consolation in my recipe, which instructed me to let my custard refrigerate overnight before pouring it into the ice cream maker; then to store the churned ice cream in the freezer for four to six more hours before serving.

Here's my beef with recipe writers. Would it be so much trouble to print a warning to the hapless home cook - perhaps in bold, red, capital letters

been guzzling the leftover coffee I'd brewed for the cake. I hadn't made any sort of cooling schedule, so I pumped and ran in place while dealing what to do next. I felt like a delusional construction on "Cupid's Wars."

By the time I finished the cake glaze - chocolate, butter, powdered sugar, sour cream and coffee - and boiled the strawberries with lemon juice and sugar for the ice cream, it was 4 p.m. Three hours left.

I opened the pasta-maker box, with regulation. Would it be better to let us let the dough sit overnight? The dinner party could go on without ice cream, that would be a disaster without a main course.



More food after the classified section, PAGE 43

SIDEdishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1

Turning the Mondial

A BEER DRINKING SOCIETY IN THE CITY OF MONTREAL, BEER FEST

Where can a dinner find Umbrewer, Kalkstein, slinger soup and Argentine barley who's all in one place? At the fifth anniversary of **MONTREAL BEER FEST** (aka Montreal World Beer Festival), which starts this Wednesday at Montreal's Hotel Bonaventure.

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world and scores up tens of thousands of people.

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Beck's, Le Cheval Blanc and La Serranais.

Italy will make a strong showing among European breweries — at least one will be in the house — and a Latin pop will spotlight beers from Chile, Argentina and Brazil, such as Corveja do Amor (from Brazil's Corveja's Beerhouse).

Attendance is free, and tasting coupons are \$5 each. The event runs from Wednesday, June 6, through Sunday, June 11, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

— C.A.

Crumbs

LEFTOVER FOOD NEWS Just in time for the Burlington Discovery Jazz Festival, a new food cart has rolled onto Church Street. Under the auspices of the folks behind the **SOBBY** **POUNCE** and the **SHRIMP** **SHRIMP**, the **PIZZA** **PIZZA** **PIZZA**

CART debuted Friday **DAVE** **MILNER**, who has been delivering homemade dumplings under the **PIZZA** **PIZZA** **PIZZA** name, sells them from the cart in-house: pasta, chicken and garlic, tomato's cheese, and Kalamata blend, a mix of cabbage, onions and steamed from **PIZZA** **PIZZA** **PIZZA**. They can all be topped with sour cream, hot sauce, or sweet Vidalia onion sauce or a beef sauce that Miller created to taste like herbs.

Located between Sweet Thing and Sea Market, the cart will also sell crops from the **PIZZA** **PIZZA** **PIZZA** for the crowd on weekends between 10 p.m. and 1 a.m.

— A.G.

Follow us on Twitter for the latest food news! @SevenDaysVT
Alice Lewis, **FOOD** **FOOD** **FOOD**

BEST JAPANESE DINING
— **SAVOUR** **MAGAZINE**



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1000 St. Albans St., Burlington



It's too hot to cook

call the Three Brothers

2-large 16" 1-topping pizzas

and a 2 liter coke product

\$19.99

Photo by: Debra L. Lippert/Photo by: Debra L. Lippert

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Thank the Lord, Fresh pasta, it turns out, when we arrived from, I watched out the kitchen's weak attachment for the first mixer and doubled the recipe for another pasta I found in the pasta-mixer booklet.

The dough was greasy, so I fried and toasting I cut it into small bits, about three-quarters of an inch thick, and prepared the mixer. The pasta-mixer set comes with three attachments (plus a dirty little brush, presumably for egg-washing, which I skipped) and two cutters, one for a rigatoni and one for spaghetti. I skipped the cap from the first of my mixer, inserted one end of the flattener and tightened it into place.

Apparently, I didn't tighten it enough. No sooner had I turned on the machine and began to feed my dough through the spinning wheels than the whole assembly began to spin. I flipped around wildly, while I screamed, until I loosened stuff from the mixer and shot out onto the floor.

On the second try, after some momentary attaching — the flange had been doing the wrong direction — it worked like a charm. And I quickly got the hang of feeding the dough through the spinning wheels, gradually tightening them with each pass until I had delicate searves of pasta dough ready to be cut.

It was 5:45 when I started the sausage. Luckily, two guests arrived early I put them straight to work hanging pork shoulder into chunks small enough to pass through the meat grinder. There's really no better dinner-party technique than asking your guests to grind meat.

THERE'S REALLY NO BETTER DINNER PARTY ICEBREAKER THAN ASKING YOUR GUESTS TO GRIND MEAT.

While one of them gleefully pumped pork into the food tube, his girlfriend squealed in delight as it grinded out the bottom in squishy pink ribbons. "It looks like bread!" she cried out.

The kitchen's mess-making attachment, we learned, is sold separately. So we didn't get to experience the rude joys of slipping the condensation into the nozzle and filling it with meat.

No matter. We mixed our ground pork with fresh sage from a cowherd's garden, several cloves of garlic, salt,

pepper and a generous pinch of red pepper. Italian and breaded it in a meat pan.

It was a miracle — the meat was coming together! Guests were arriving, finding their way to the wine, beer and garlic-bread. Pretty soon all 10 of us were happily crammed into the kitchen. I carried industrial-size pans of boiling pasta water from one side to another, carefully avoiding guests' legs, and enlisted waiters to chop broccoli into, set the table and offer creative solutions to new challenges.

The last big one: We had to set up the ice cream machine. Our guests flipped through the instruction manual while three of us tried out different configurations for the perplexing plastic pieces, a medium-size ring, a mixing paddle, a plastic container and the bowl, which had now been in the freezer for about five of its recommended 16 hours.

Finally, with a mixture of secrecy and force, we got the machine running. It poured the creamy custard into the spinning bowl and heated a cup of milk. The last piece of this ambitious dinner extravaganza had come together — even if it never quite turned to ice cream.

At 8:30 p.m., we popped three bowls of bubbly and dove into the meat. It's impossible to shoot the details off. Maybe next time. ☺

Homer Simpson said, "You don't eat friends with salad." Clearly, he has never tasted the scrumptious salad at the Common Man in Warren. It doesn't sound like much, but this sort of steel-cut-and-salt-dressed rocket and shaved fennel-onion-tomato-delicately creamy ricotta ribbons, roasted-sliced chutney — not sheets, ribbons of fresh basil, and juicy, uniformly ridged-asparagus from Warren's Kirbyway Market Garden. A tangy smear of lobster on the side under the plate's contents into a pool of a dash, simple but perfectly delectable.

Since 1973, the 1880s barn has housed a restaurant called the Common Man, always associated with high-end dining. The chandelier-bedecked atmosphere compares with Waterbury's Hies of the Wood at the Grist Mill, both combine modern elegance and old-school Vermont charm. But while the Common Man's kitchen was long known for rustic, lacquer takes on French classics such as *coq au vin*, a new regime has stepped in. Armed with impressive, big-city experience, the new owners have brought an international flavor and modern techniques to the area.

Longtime couple Lorien Wooten and Adrian Longworth, and their business partners — Mike and Desiree Trahan, owners of Burlington-based systems and PayData Payroll Services — purchased the Common Man from its previous owners, Keith and Julia Prazma, on December 6, 2011. Wooten and Longworth had worked through the Thanksgiving rush in New York City in their jobs as general manager of Gotham Bar and Grill, respectively. Two days after the sale, they reopened the Common Man.

What made these two thirtysomethings, who'd been working closely with renowned chefs such as Jonathan Waxman and Alfred Portale, pick up and leave? Northfield native Longworth has a simple answer: "The main reason is, we wanted to mountain hike," he says, straight face.

Perhaps there was more to it, but in any case, Longworth and Wooten had been trying to find themselves a Vermont restaurant since 2010. "We were looking almost exclusively in Burlington," remembers Longworth. "We were really ignored. We thought we could get a small restaurant on our own, and we fell for our own fear."

While spending a summer working with longtime friend Charlie Mowat at the Inn at Round Barn Farm, the couple



Lorien Wooten and Adrian Longworth

Uncommon Quality

Talented newcomers remake Warren's Common Man restaurant

BY ALICE LEVITT



Harlow

made the Trahan's acquaintance. This fall, Longworth and Wooten returned to New York to regroup — and to gather more knowledge from their high-profile mentors about running their own business.

On a visit to New York, the Trahans stopped by Gotham Bar and Grill and

tasted Longworth's food for the first time. Mike Trahan told them, "If you want a restaurant, we're in," recalls Longworth. "I didn't even know how that well. I thought he was kidding."

But Trahan was serious. He and his wife purchased the land on which the Common Man sits and have a small

stable in the restaurant. "They are really passionate about keeping the [Mad River] Valley alive," says Wooten. "I always go back to Mike Trahan's quote: 'We'd hate to see Vermont lose you because there was no opportunity for talented people.'"

Since December, the two have simply ground their talent, but it wasn't easy. Making the transition from the specific roles of general manager and chef de cuisine to the multiple demands of running a restaurant — such as purchasing and cleaning grease traps — presented challenges early on. So did an old-fashioned kitchen. During a month-long closure in April, Longworth and Wooten took the kitchen down to studs and replaced almost all of the appliances.

The out-of-date equipment caused the chef a crisis of confidence when he began work at the Common Man. "I tell everyone I have never been so humbled in my life, ever," Longworth says. "[I went] from a really, really busy New York City restaurant that has every piece of equipment and as many hands as you need to make it good. I started to think, maybe every bit of success I had was [due to] having equipment so easily and readily available?" Now he calls the learning process humbling but fun.

Less fun were the constraints Longworth placed on his menu. In their early days at the Common Man, he and Wooten slowly added new items, taking care not to get too adventurous.

Longworth loves seafood, but several people advised the couple that his crabs and oysters wouldn't go down well in Warren. Yet when he started introducing them to the menu, "That's when the restaurant really started to go," says Longworth, who credits Ethan Wood of Wood Mountain Park for the beautiful black bass in his crèche.

Longworth says the fish is as high in quality as anything he got in New York, but he deserves the praise for its many attributes. The thin slices of bass, topped with sliced red onion, radish and chunks of orange, swim in a light-orange, chipotle broth dotted with bubbles of gilded roscetta. The lightly acidic dish leaves a pleasant smolder. *Alpacas* barn on the palate long after it's devoured.

Once-overly visits from Wood also supply Longworth with the raw materials for his delectable roast halibut. The tender fish is baby-dressed and craps on top, thanks to a thick, dark-brown sealet. It perches on a single tender baby carrot placed delicately on

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WHEELS IN MOTION Fun-loving participants play "Whose Line is it Anyway?" style games in an encouraging environment. Soak Arts, Sunraysia @ 10pm. Suggested donation: info 713-4933.

OPEN HOUSE MEETING: Be right in the loop! Join us for the gallery's latest happenings. **RTA Gallery PlazaSouth NY 8 p.m. Free. Info: 516.334.8877**

MARK STUBB Defunct bicycle parts become works of art, and jewelry that will be sold to use funds and resources for the Recycle Vermont, aka Recycle Vermont, Burlington, 6-Stop, Free info: 254-3037

MILTON COMMUNITY YOUTH COMMISSION MEETING: Twelve Milton teens who work on the MCYC's alternative spring break in Japan! We, share their experiences over dinner. Choose your parents! Wilson Public Library, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Canned-food donations accepted for the food bank. Call 800-8009

BURLINGTON DISCOVER JAZZ FESTIVAL
 Catch July's extended, get-together about a group
 share live jazz improvisation, where visitors place
 everywhere from concert halls to tents by
 the waterfront. Various downtown locations,
 Burlington noon midnight. Various-guests see
 discover-us.com for full schedule and details
 info: 802.555.0000 or 802.555.0000

[illegible]

BARRY BARMOORE MARKET Grocers, bakers and farmers share their goods on the rooftop of the open Barry City Hall Park, 34-30th St. Free info: barry@barrymarketill.com

Baked beans, preserves, meat and eggs, with
shoppers in search of local goods. St. Rose of
Lima Church, South Hill, 4-5 p.m. Free info.
line: 3641

prepared foods and packaged produce at a weekly open air offer Town Green, Wilkeson 4-7 p.m. Free info: 735-3862 info.williamsandgray.com

ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DIET Helps support your digestive health by sampling soybean, fiber, probiotics and more with foodist.net/norwic-healthshow2009. February 6-8, Market, Burlington, \$15.30 a m. Free info 866-8800.

Apils learn how to achieve their physical fitness goals. New England Center for CranioSacral Therapy, Warrington 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Info: 603-844-5152.

CHRISTEN THE ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM A lively workshop offers a different perspective of our changing health care landscape. Participants will spend the day with students in a simulated classroom. **Session 101, Aaker-Corbin LMH** Washington, D.C. 20037-0001. www.aahr.org

Universal energies help seekers of enlighten-
ment find peace bliss and joy. Rainbow
Initiates Burlington 8:30-1pm. \$70 info.
see 2004.

Chess Club King-of-the-hill, practice setting and various opening gambits, with callouts
Robert Nichols, Kirtling Hubbard Library
November 3, 30 to 45 Free, Age 225 7038

themselves with creative activities and snack time. Bent, Northeast Homestead, Berry Fairfield, 181138 a.m. For info: 529-5425.

Library Locations & 24 hr. Free Info. 1-877-662-6626

Two-thirds of us take to these bills for Vermont CARES 14th annual Coming Out on Saturday — but you can't say the organization has simply been spinning its wheels all these years. On the contrary, in its 25th year, the agency is providing more HIV/AIDS prevention, care and educational programming than ever. Cyclists add no amount by powerwashing along routes 17, 10, 87 and 100 only second loops — or opting to make their own routes on the Burlington Bike Path. Free Hot & Breezy's is a monthly movie reveals the odder movie.



Long before Marilyn Monroe



transports this lesser-known masterwork to the present day. Backed by gorgeous orchestral work, the heartrending production juxtaposes passion and vengeance in five performances.

Friday, June 8, 8 p.m., with free reception to follow, and Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in Middlebury. View website for future dates through June 16. \$45-50. Free pre-performance talks at Memorial Baptist Church one hour prior to show. Info: 802-455-2222, conventions.org.

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Natural Attraction

The best things in life are free — and that's *definitely* true during the second Vermont Days weekend. State park day areas, state-owned historic sites and the Vermont History Museum receive entrance fees for the occasion, so there's no better time to hike, bike, boat, picnic or generally be one with Mother Nature. Anglers get in on the action through free fishing — no license required — on Saturday; poles are provided at Freebury State Park's family fishing club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. On Sunday, from 2 to 4 p.m., run yourself to runes by the Green Mountain Forest Road at Waterbury Center State Park.

VERMONT DAYS

Saturday, June 9 and Sunday, June 10, all day at various/outdoor statewide. Free admission. Saturday is a free fishing day for residents and nonresidents without a license. Info: 800-830-0855, vermontdays.com

The Maddening Crowd

Why is it never like a working drink? Lewis Carroll's nonsensical riddle wasn't written with no answer in mind, but you'd do well to bring a clever comeback to the Luncheon Mad Matter's Tea & Bubbly party. Supporting the nonprofit's work strengthening families, reducing child abuse and neglect, and aiding in adoption, the Wonderland-fueled luncheon serves up proper tea-party fare — from scones and tea sandwiches to berries and Champagne — as well as mind-expanding, including games of croquet and macramé tea doilies. So up your mercury free list — things are hot to get someone and carious.

MAD MATTER'S TEA & BUBBLY

Sunday, June 10, 3 to 5 p.m., at a private home on Spurr Street in South Burlington. \$25-30. Includes support fund programming. Pre-register for tickets. Info: 802-255-1000, luncheon.org



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1990-2000 14-2130

providence's premier concert series. Butley House, Southbury Farm, Warren 7-8 p.m. Free. Info: 485-7333

ACQUAINTANCE EDWARD: The journey — always to be found in the soundtracks of more than a dozen albums — 90s — memories — plays, vintage Americana and Celtic concert music. Eric Long Music Center at Middlebury College. 10-11 p.m. 12-12 p.m. 12-12 p.m. Info: 888-223-0222. ericlongmusic.com

JAZZ ON THE MARKETPLACE: Power of the Green Mountain State. Band Strength in Hudson. Hudson. Big Band. The Gate. May 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st. Info: 855-785-7852

JERRY CUT: Thanks to the talented and talented. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st. Info: 855-785-7852

JOHN CRUISE CHORAL SOCIETY: Where history meets music in a special concert, including John Cruise's Requiem and a collection of spirituals. Congregational Church. 7:30 p.m. 20-20 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

ROOTS ON THE RIVER FESTIVAL: See THU 27

SOUTH BURLINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH: Rev. Lawrence conducts the church's 100th anniversary concert. 7:30 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

VILLAGE HARMONY: College-age singers from South Africa sing songs and stories, with music from the 1960s and 1970s. 7:30 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

OVERSEAS: 10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

BRANCH 27 BURLINGTON TREE WALK: 10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

WALK IN THE WOODS: 10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

DIGITAL VIDEO EDITING: 10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

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JUNE SEA GLASS TRUNK SHOW
10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

READ BOOKS TO CROW
10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

THE NAPOLEON 2012
10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

MAY 5 - JUNE 9
10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

10-11 p.m. Info: 855-785-7852

Fun. **Proctor Academy Monkeys** (saturday) 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$5-10. See for info under 9. Info: 379-0877 / www.proctoracademy.com

EMERGENCY NIGHT Spend more space around the table. Transfer First Street, 4 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Family Free for each under 1. Info: 244-8993

to do

WALLS STING RAIN The Russian and Soviet sides of the 1918 revolution are explored through the eyes of Elena Alexandrovna Slavova. 1918: The Russian Revolution. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Info: 669-4436 / info@theatlanticfestival.org

to eat

LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, SO I CHANGED See THU 17 7 p.m.

THICK AND AS OUT NOTHING See FRID 18 2 p.m.

to read

ANDREA CHESTMAN The author of *The Picked Family*. From Apple to Zucchini: 150 Recipes for Pickles, Berries, Chutneys and More, serves up her summer of pickled vegetables and soups. Proctor Books, Burlington, 2-4 p.m. Info: 443-3050

WOMEN'S POETRY GROUP Writers give and receive feedback on their poetic expressions in a nonthreatening, nonacademic setting. Call for specific locations. Poets in the Park, Burlington, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Info: 528-2852 / poetsintheatlantic.com

MON. 11

community

TROPICAL STORM RELIEF SUPPORT GROUP Recovery work, peer-peer support as they process their emotions and develop coping skills. Unitarian Church, Montpelier, 3-30 p.m. Free. Info: 278-4692

dance

DANCEFEST Focus of an age-friendly dance to top-hitting, well-known music. No instruction is provided, and no partner is needed. North St. Studios, Burlington, 7-10:30 p.m. \$3. Info: 533-6703

environment

CO-OP SOLAR INFO SESSION Good friends to learn about solar heat, water program and sign up for free solar site assessments of their home at Southern Shoreline Town Offices, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. Info: 542-4393

etc.

WOMEN & TRANS NIGHT Gender-neutral role plays make and behave their like confidence in women workshops led by Elise Reynolds. Vermont studios, 340 Bridge Vermont, Burlington, 5-9 p.m. \$5-10 suggested donation. Info: 244-4657

film

WINTER'S BONE Jennifer Lawrence plays an underdog hunting for her father's killer. It's a year in the life of a young woman who is forced to track down her drug-dealing father in Osage County, 2010. In a room, Columbia, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Info: 244-3302

health & fitness

AVOID FALLS WITH IMPROVED STAIR USE See FRID 18, 10 a.m.

HERBAL CONSULTATIONS Explore the science of plant health care in a personalized consultation with local herb grower and educator from the Vermont Center for Integrative Herbalism. City Market, Burlington, 4-7 p.m. Free. Pre-registration: 581-1870 / vchherbalschool.org

kids

MALE LA MOTTE PLAYGROUP Stories embrace music for creative play. No charge will be needed. La Motte Elementary School, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 527-6425

MUSIC & DANCE A special night of music and dance, as well as a special presentation on the history of music. 11:30-12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

MUSIC WITH RAPHAEL See THU 17 10:45 a.m.

PLAY TIME PLAYGROUP Children under 6 with development of all ages or Down syndrome gather at a parent, as well as visiting specialists from a variety of fields. 20th Ave. Community Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

musical

GREEN MOUNTAIN OPERA FESTIVAL MASTER CLASS Tenor Richard Teitel presents new projects in song. Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 20th Ave. Community Center, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

RESCUE COUNTRY PLAYGROUP Musicians produce a folk, bluegrass and swing jam session. New music and songwriting workshop. 10:30-12:30 p.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

CAMP ATTACADONCHER REHEARSAL New players are welcome to join in at Burlington's All-Star Musical. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

THE CHAMPLAIN RIVER New songs are featured to celebrate the river. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

WILLAGE RIVERWAY See SAT 18 10:30 a.m.

seminars

EMPOWER YOUR INTUITION Projects include: 20-minute guided meditation, 10-minute guided meditation, 10-minute guided meditation, 10-minute guided meditation. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

sport

ONE CYCLE CRUISE Riders ride and chatted on a weekend after ride. Green River Sports, Montpelier, 8-10 p.m. Free. Info: 350-1987

stories

MALE LA MOTTE PLAYGROUP Stories embrace music for creative play. No charge will be needed. La Motte Elementary School, 10-11:30 a.m. Free. Info: 527-6425

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to eat

LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, SO I CHANGED See THU 17 7 p.m.

THICK AND AS OUT NOTHING See FRID 18 2 p.m.

Delving Deeper Community Vermont presents 10th Anniversary Green Mountain Dharma Festival with founder Lisa Ostal Rinpoche

June 1-3, 4, Lincoln and Bristol, Vermont

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Delving Deeper is a non-profit organization. All proceeds will be donated to the organization.



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FLAMENCO HOY
BY DANIEL BARRA
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June 17th

ESPERANZA SPALDING
AMERICAN IN PARIS
June 17th

LILA DOWN
June 17th

info
visit our website
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classes



THE FOLLOWING CLASS LISTINGS ARE FREE ADVERTISEMENTS. ANNUAL ROSS CLASS (FOR US LITTLE AT \$18.75/WEEK) INCLUDES \$18 PHOTOS AND UNLIMITED DESCRIPTION ONLINE. SUBMIT YOUR CLASS AD AT SEVENDAYSVT.COM/POSTCLASS.

LANGUAGE: W.P. 05

martial arts

AIKIDO. A full introductory class begins on Tue, Jun 5 6:45p in Try out this class for \$45. This fee can be applied toward our 3-mo. membership special rate for \$700 (incl. unlimited classes 7 days/wk). Children's classes begin on Sat., June 2, 9 a.m. (ages 5-10) & 9:45 a.m. (ages 7-10). Location: Aikido of Champlain Valley, 257 Pine St. (across from Clarend Hotel & Light). Burlington Info: 602-8903.

karling/keno/okoj. This Japanese martial art is a great method to get in shape and reduce stress. The Youth Program provides a scholarship for children and teenagers ages 7-17. We offer classes for children ages 5-6. Classes are taught by Benjamin H. Hest, Sr. Sensei. Vermont's senior and only fully certified Aikido teacher. Veterans are always welcome.

AIKIDO CLASSES. Cost: \$45/m consecutive Tue, uniform incl. Location: Vermont Aikido 274 N. Winooski Ave. (2nd Floor).

Burlington Info: Reemtsma Aikido 862-0985. Website: www.aikido.org. Aikido trains body and spirit together promoting physical flexibility and strong center within flowing movement. martial sensitivity with compassionate presence, respect for others and confidence in oneself. Vermont Aikido invites you to explore this graceful martial art in a safe, supportive environment.

MARTIAL WAY SELF-DEFENSE CENTER. Please visit website for schedule. Location: Martial Way Self-Defense Center, 3 locations, Colchester, Milton, St. Albans. Info: 860-8903. martialwayvt.com. Beginners will find a comfortable and welcoming environment, a courteous staff and a non-belted approach that values the beginning student as the most important member of the school. Experienced martial artists will be

impressed by our instructor's knowledge and humility. Our realistic approach and our straightforward and fair tuition and billing policies. We are dedicated to helping every member achieve his or her highest potential in the martial arts. In Kampu Jiu-Jitsu MMA Wing Chun Aikido Taijiquan Self-Defense.

VERMONT BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU. Mon. 6p-8p, 6-9 p.m. & Sat. 10 a.m. Test class is free. Location: Vermont Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, 55 Leroy Rd., Williston. Info: 850-4072. JiuJitsuVermont.com. Classes for men, women and children. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu enhances strength, flexibility, balance, coordination and cardio-respiratory fitness. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu training builds and helps to instill courage and self-confidence. We offer a legitimate Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu martial arts program in a friendly, safe

and positive environment. Accept no limitations. Learn from one of the world's best, "Julio Tucci". Per number: CBJJ and IJJJ certified 1st Degree Black Belt. Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instructor under Carlson Gracie Sr., teaching in Vermont, born and raised in Rio de Janeiro Brazil. A 5-time Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu National Middleweight Champion and 3-time Rio de Janeiro State Champion Rio de Janeiro Brazil.

massage

EXPLORATION OF MOVEMENT 14 CEU. Jul. 28-29, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Cost: \$245/14 CEUs (\$225 F per day). Jul. 18, call about live-fire instruction. Location: Touchstone Healing Arts, Burlington Info: touchstonehealingarts.com. 734-1131. touchstonehealingarts.com. Info: <http://ortho-bioenergy.org>

kellyblanco@earthlink.net. Using Ortho-Bionomy participants will learn to recognize and palpate patterns of joint and muscle movement in order to facilitate tension release and increase range of motion. These techniques help relieve tension in those which places in our body that keep us leaders from moving well (i.e., shoulder blades or pelvis that want move when someone is walking).

meditation

LEARN TO MEDITATE. Meditation instruction available Sun. evenings 9 a.m.-noon or by appointment. The Shamatha Calmness the first Sat. of each month for meditation and discussion, 9 a.m.-noon. An Open House occurs every third Sat. evening of each month, 7-9 p.m., which includes as intro to the center, a short

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lucyfilmaker, 27



FunLiberDan, 27

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Select the best suitors and reply to their messages for **FREE**. Get to know the person over email and when you're ready, make a date.

SEVEN DAYS PERSONALS
sevendaysvt.com

Mixing Signals

Burlington recording studio and venue Signal Kitchen steps out

Here Lali and Dave DeCristo

BY JOHN FLANNERY

Since 2003, Burlington's Signal Kitchen has been a hot spot best known for its cozier during-the-South-Indi-Art-Prodigy-September-and-occasional-and-for-the-rider shows over the rest of the year. Though the owners of the recording studio-plus-underground-music club didn't merely avoid publicity they didn't seek it out either.

"We were kind of holding off on an interview," says Dave DeCristo, who admits to just that with Steve Dots along with his business partner Allen Lali, at the freshly poured concrete bar in the refurbished lounge of their two-story recording, rehearsal, and performance space. "We were just trying to build the place up."

Recently, shows at the lower Main Street venue have been increasingly regular. SK now draws heavy-hitting acts both supported, such as Bonhom Straphs, and domestic, such as Burlington's Chamberlain and Rough Francis. The space hosted several shows at this year's Green Mountain Comedy Festival on May 19. This week marks the semi-annual coming-out party as it hosts a pair of shows for the 2012 Burlington Discovery Jazz Festival, free 10PM via Moon Hatch on Thursday, June 7, and keyboard wizard Momo Beethoven on Friday, June 8.

Signal Kitchen began as essentially a rehearsal space. "But we quickly learned that doing rehearsals is kind of a nuisance," says DeCristo. Lali, 30, acknowledges that scheduling and helping bands set up became a distraction for the pair, who were often trying to mix records upstairs. SK still functions as a practice studio for a handful of local bands. But DeCristo and Lali have since named their focus toward hosting and recording concerts — the latter both secretly and visually.

"This is how we can make our mark and develop our brand in a way that isn't an everyday recording studio or venue space can do," DeCristo says.

"And I think it's the life of the music business, too," adds Lali.

DeCristo, a Burlington native, and Lali, from Boston, teamed up after DeCristo returned from living in LA for three years, where he had dropped out of culinary school but discovered a knack for sound engineering and design. Lali, a Berklee College of Music alum, had been working at Luv's Den, a Boston-based recording studio, and managing but once revised local, Young Cub Records. Though

DeCristo still returned to LA frequently to engineer on Stones Throw Records' live recording series, Direct to Disc, he and Lali began dreaming up the idea for SK.

"Dave knows how much I love space, just like he does," Lali says. "So he'd send me a blueprint and I'd say 'When, is the basement really that big?'"

The duo acquired the 71 Main Street space from Mike Lohr, who had already been running a recording and rehearsal venue there. Before that, the building housed Michael Freeman and Darrel Robinson's Ringworms Recording, since relocated to Providence, R.I. The space's unique 15-inch I-beam and steel reinforcement recall its origin as a Cadillac dealership.

Art Shop attendees may remember SK as a stripped-down basement with a garage door and 1000s of labeled all-nighters. While the basement's shagbush still exists, DeCristo and Lali have completely redesigned the downstairs, giving the layout more polish and bringing it into compliance with Burlington city code.

"We wanted to have some kind of money and play by the rules," DeCristo says. "Unfortunately, it took a lot of time and money. But now that it's done, we can sleep at night."

Funding for the refurbishments came mostly via their rehearsal space and mortgage loans.

"When I bring someone in from the city, I can be like, 'All right, we can put in an HVAC now,'" Lali says, standing beside his gleaming new purchase.

"It looks different every time I go down there," says Perreault lead man Bryan Perreault, who, along with bandmate Christopher Shear, is currently recording a full-length album at Signal Kitchen. "Now, I'm not really an HVAC specialist or anything," Perreault adds. "But, shit, that's a damn fine-looking HVAC."

He adds that SK fills a critical need in downtown Burlington, giving the venue a suitable for shows too big for the Monkey House, too small for Higher Ground, and not Nectary or Motomoney enough for Nectary or [Club Motomoney].

MNR Records of MSR Presents agrees. Along with Nick Merandino and Paddy Reigan of Anguilla's Media, Rogers is responsible for a recent influx of outstanding bands that might otherwise skip over the Queen City on tour in Montreal, Boston or New York.

"I love Nectary, I love Motomoney, and I love BGA," Rogers says, "but it's nice to have an alternative right downtown. And I think Signal Kitchen fits well with a lot of the stuff I do."

DeCristo and Lali recognize their hybrid event space/recording studio provides not only a venue but something unique in the Burlington's record label with a multidimensional approach. Lali cites labels such as London's GAD as an influence.

Videographer Matt Day of Wonderland Pictures contributes significantly to the SK aesthetic. Day also had previously filmed the Naked Mountain video series, captures each SK concert with a number of HD cameras. DeCristo and Lali then splice Day's footage with their recordings to produce promotional material for the bands and the studio. The team suggests its work is exemplary of what new record labels studios and performing acts spend in must do to succeed.

"Established bands are going to be first," Lali says. "But if you're going to start a company, be it a studio or a label, you've got to do a lot of stuff, and you've got to do it all well."

Though SK welcomes all, don't expect to find it too noisy. The mixture is a nondescript, unmarked door at the end of an alley DeCristo and Lali say they prefer the signless, speaking style that's commonplace in New York, designed to keep those out of the know out of the know.

"We're going out of 30 more up to an every night and tell us to get a sign," Lali says. "That's the point is no sign."

Regardless of its direction, SK is likely to be packed for this week's June Fest run, as well as its upcoming shows Northbrook's King Tuff on Friday, June 15, and R&B folk artist Ben Selver on Friday, June 22. DeCristo and Lali say they also have big plans for this year's Art Hop, as event they consider an annual milestone for SK, though three plans remain undeployed.

"Live on," DeCristo hints. "That's all I can say?" ☐

Signal Kitchen Signal Kitchen on Thursday, June 7, 10PM at 602-222-2222 (Signal Kitchen) and 602-222-2222 (Signal Kitchen)

Signal Kitchen Signal Kitchen on Friday, June 8, 11PM at 602-222-2222 (Signal Kitchen) and 602-222-2222 (Signal Kitchen)

SOUNDbites

BY DAN BELLES

Overly Hyphenated

Well, that was fun

Opening night of the Burlington Debuter Jazz Festival is among my favorite nights of the year in the Queen City. Some where: Art Hop Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving and the glorious first night after most of the college kids have moved home for summer. Altho... where was I? Oh, right. Staging a concert of quiet. Also: Jazz Fest.

This year was no exception, as the city was awash in live music, from the Radio Beem to the Flynn Center and innumerable stages in between. Both indoors and out. What's more, the forecasted rain mostly held off, which

Anytime if there's one thing better than the opening weekend of Jazz Fest, it's the closing weekend of Jazz Fest, when we say goodbye to bebop's hepcats and bebop's for another year with a shot at an eclectic jazz-funk, jazz-funk, jazz-hop, jazz-rock, jazz-house and maybe even some jazz-punk. So with that in mind, here are some under-the-radar selections for the final days of the 2012 BJFF.

Thanks in part to their always packed Thursday sessions at Radio Beem, **RAY WRIGHT & THE INDESTRUCTIBLE** **SHUL BASS** have become one of the most electric live acts in town. It may also be because Wright is a bit of a soul dynamo. Friday, the band brings the party from the Beem to the



Ray Wright

Radio Beem to the streets. **FLYING COBAIN** started last year following the outdoor show.

A couple of weeks back, I wrote about **BEYOND DANCE** & **THE NEW METHOD** making their Burlington debut. The indie-

DONNA SUMNER by a not-to-be-named local singer, one of few who has my business covering Donna Summer. Rogers covered.

What's more, local brass man **BOB HORTON** will debut his latest endeavor, **THE 6th AND 10th BAND**, an 11-piece "medium" big band featuring a mix of S & B players and other local talents, including baritone or trumpet, **WORLDWIDE** **PAUL MACHES**, **CHERRY ON BURNING**, **PAPER**, **TOPEKA** on keys, **BOB HORTON** on drums, and **JOHN MCHARRA** on tenor and alto sax, to name a few.

Moore, who composed an entire act of original material for the show, describes the new group as "an explosive, genre-mixing ensemble" that draws influences from straight-ahead jazz to post-rock, hip-hop, world music and beyond. In other words, it's like a microcosm of the entire Jazz Festival. Next.

Meanwhile, in the building laboratories of the DCA Center, JazzLab looks off again this week, mounting a trio of local acts to experiment with recording and mixing albums in front of a live audience, with help from the Thank Strain's **BOB COLLETTE** and **AND DONNA**. It began Thursday.

June 7 with zero-B&B



Ray Wright & the Indestructible Shul Bass

unfortunately may not be the case for much of this week. (Speaking of which, did anyone find a blue rain jacket, perhaps somewhere between the top block of Church Street and, say, the 1/2 Lounge past? I'm gonna need that back.)

streets — specifically, the top block of Church Street, where BJFF unofficially kicks off its final weekend. If you're still looking for more and/or, high-octane jazz, you don't have to venture far. Milwaukee's Upstreet Café hosts local version of

several acts from defunctly Burlington/Montreal hip-pop ensemble **STRENGTH** **BOUNDING**. Burns and Co are back this Friday, June 8, at Nectar's, which is pretty cool. Exam better, headliners S & B are playing their last show since last year's Jazz Fest. It'll feature a cadre of guest MCs and vocalists. The latter will reportedly include a special tribute to the late

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For more on Burlington's music scene, visit www.northernexposure.com.

SOUND BITES BY DAN

JUNE 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31

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JUNE 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31



FELICIA / RED TAIL RING (JACI)

WED.06

burlington area

LOU LANGE Joshua Gray (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free. Soundcheck: 8. Craig Mitchell w/ Ruffe 10 (DJ) 10:45-11:30 p.m. Free.

MAX'S PLACE Right 10 (DJ) 7-11 p.m. Free.

AMERICAN PLAYGROUND ... **PUBLICITY IN HEART** (banger w/parade) 7-11:30 p.m. Free.

BARAN HATER (LIVE) (banger w/parade) 8 p.m. Free.

CLUB HITCHHIKE MC Drifter (banger w/parade) 8:30 p.m. Free.

LEWIS DJ & DJ (banger w/parade) 9 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY'S BITE Karaoke 9:30 p.m. Free.

HALLYCROSSBY'S UP STREET GAVE The Golden Stone Band (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

HIGHER GROUND SHOWCASE LEAGUE (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

LEWIS & CLARK'S CAFE (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

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MINI-MARTEN PIZZA & PUB (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

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Old, in a Way There is a sense of history in the music of Michigan's RED TAIL RING. The duo is firmly rooted in old-time tradition and bears heartfelt reverence for the genre's time-honored themes and sounds. But RED TAIL RING are equally a product of more modern coastal and literary influences, both on the water and on the page. The result is a shimmering, earnest folk music that is sophisticated, worldly and whimsical. This Friday, June 6, Red Tail Ring plays the Monkey House in Wilkeson, located **ON THE MONKEY HOUSE**.

ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke 7 p.m. Free.

RADIO BLISS Free Jazz (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

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THU.07

burlington area

LOU LANGE Joshua Gray (banger w/parade) 7 p.m. Free.

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ON TAP BAR & GRILL Karaoke 7 p.m. Free.

Khaela Maricich of "The Blow" is en route!

She's got a



flavored by...



SPRINKLES

SOUNDbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 38

ensemble **CHALMERS**, a **WINDY CITY** recording a traditional A-side/B-side single. On Friday, June 8, local songwriter and pianist **JORDAN ELEAN** steps out from his role as an in-demand sideman — for which he won a 2011 Sevin Dignam award — and begins tracking for his forthcoming debut album. And on Saturday, June 9, Brooklyn-based guitarist **MIKE GARNER** enters Burlington's **ONE DAVE** into the studio to play around with synths and drones and explore the nexus of organic and electronic sounds. In other words, *cyborg-jazz*.

BiteTorrent

Montrealer, and about as far as you can get from your local blues man, is **WYOMING** in Springfield as a one-day festival tribute to **HOW DYLAN** dubbed, um, Dylanist, this Saturday, June 9, at **Mosq's** in Montville. The show features more than 30 local bands and songwriters paying homage to the songwriting legend, who has inspired, well, pretty much everyone who has picked up a guitar and written a song in the last 50 years. Actually, that's sort of a tongue twister. For every great artist who has been influenced by Dylan, there are about 10,000 shitty ones who were equally "inspired" by his music. That's not his fault, of course. But given those odds, you could argue that Dylan did more to set back the cause of American songwriting than move it forward because he is indirectly responsible for so much bad music. Kidding! Fortunately, **Wyoming's** show boasts some great local talent, including the **GAMES BROTHERS**, **D.C. DAVIS**, **UNWELL THOMPSON**, **WINDY COUNTRY**, **GRLEY RAYMOND** and many, many more.

Last week, the Lake Champlain Maritime Festival



Mike Garnier

(August 10-12) announced the full lineup for its free concert series, and it's impressive. The afternoon series happens on three different stages along the Burlington waterfront and includes a diverse cross-section of local and regional fare — and, again, it's free. Among the highlights are hip-hop crew **CRISMA CIVILIAN**, indie-punkers **CHALMERS**, folk-rockers the **JORDAN ELEAN PROJECT** and indie rockers **LEWIS**. For the full rundown, check out kcmfestival.com.

Speaking of summer fun, the **Synapse Peak Performing Arts Center** in **Flowe** hosts some star power in this season's lineup. Some shows even have *adult* featured *mandolinists* **WAVE**

GRIMM on Saturday, July 21, the **TAL MAHAR** trio on Wednesday, August 18, and the **CROWD JAMMERS** on Thursday, August 16.

Former Burlington **ADRIAN** also returns to town this week with a brand-new album in tow. **Struts**, the Boston-based singer's fifth full-length, is a collection of "lost" songs recorded between 2005 and 2010 that had never seen the light of day. She'll be at the Montvale House in Windsor on Thursday, June 7, with Boston's **WELL-BEING** and Burlington's **LAWELL Thompson**.

While we're on the subject of VT events, symphonist **NEAH ARNOLD** has been keeping good company

late, touring the country with **HERALD BARNES** as a her critically adored Afro-funk 4-to-5-aux-pop-instrumental duo. **Project TIME MARS**. Unfortunately, the closest that band will come to Vermont is its current tour in the Newport Folk Festival in July. But if you want to keep tabs on her career, he's just released his debut, a shimmering seven-plus record called **5ix**, with his own quartet in Portland, Ore. Check it out at northberrymusicband.org.com.

Last but not least, have you heard the new **Seven Days** interview podcast, **Beer Dive**, hosted by **MAUR**? Well, why the hell not? It debuted last week, and it's really good. In this week's episode, **Liz** sits down with the **WAVE** and asks all things electronic. Check it out on the **Seven Days** website. ☺



Listening In

Once again, this week's totally cool, indigenous column segment, in which I share a random sampling of what's on our way list, includes CD player, indie track player etc., this week.

The Hymnists

Genests

San Eli Moon

Among the Leaves

Sigat Rios

At the

Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros

None

Lee Fields and the Expressionists

Fathead Man

Are you thinking about starting or expanding your family?

If you are a woman:

Between the ages of 15 and 42
Plan to conceive in the next year

- AND — Have never had a child before
- OR — Have had previous in the past
- OR — Have Type 1 diabetes
- OR — Have a personal or family history of pregnancy loss

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Researchers at the University of Vermont would like to speak with you. Our study will examine risk factors for pre-pregnancy loss of pregnancy.

Personal completion of up to 15 minutes in person. We will provide you with written information on scheduling your interview.

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JACK & JESSIE THU JUN 7	THU JUN 7
SOMETHING WITH STRINGS & GOLDTOWN FRI JUN 8	FRI JUN 8
MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE: THE FELA KUTI PROJECT SAT JUN 9	SAT JUN 9
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS SUN JUN 10	SUN JUN 10
CONSIDER THE SOURCE MON JUN 11	MON JUN 11
RETROGNOME TUE JUN 12	TUE JUN 12
MILYARD NIGHT WED JUN 13	WED JUN 13
BASS CULTURE THU JUN 14	THU JUN 14
METAL MONDAYS FRI JUN 15	FRI JUN 15
TOWNSHIP MONDAY SAT JUN 16	SAT JUN 16
TOKYO TRAMPS SUN JUN 17	SUN JUN 17
188 MAIN ST BURLINGTON, VT 802-656-4771 TICKETFLY.COM	

THU. 07.04.08

northern

BEST KNEES Phil Spector & Joe Jackson (saxophone) 7:30 p.m. Downtown

SHOENIE'S NOISEST BUSTED Music (saxophone) 9 p.m. Free

HARVEY KUP Super Kallan & Christopher Jackson 7:30 p.m. Free

SHROOK MOUNTAIN TROOP But the Rivers (bass) 10 p.m. Free

regional

MONOPOLI DOWNSTAIRS Gary Phoenix (saxophone) 9 p.m. Free

BLUES BARELY Kaseena 8 p.m. Free

THIRDACT & HENRIELAN Kaseena 8 p.m. with Sassy Connections (sax) 9 p.m. Free
THIRDACT The Big Band 7:30 p.m. Free
THIRDACT The Big Band 7:30 p.m. Free

FRI. 08

burrito fusion area

LA LOUNGE Mya (sax) and Devin (bass) 8 p.m. 7 p.m. Free

ACE'S PLACE Close to Home (bass) 8 p.m. Free

AMERICAN FLATIRON — **BURRINGTON HART** Andrea Parker (bass) 8 p.m. 7 p.m. Free

BACKSTAGE P&B Caroline with Steve 10:30 p.m.

BRUNNENBERG The Big Band 8 p.m. Free

CLUB METROHOUSE New York 8 p.m. 7 p.m. Free

DOWNSTAIRS TAP & BELL Project 4 (bass) 8 p.m. Free

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PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL J. HARRIS FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

All In

Whether with his own ensemble alongside such varied stars as jazz icon Sonny Rollins late and Kanye West, Hynes and James Brown, or hip-hop head the Roots, Christian McBride displays unerring depth, versatility and skill. As the codirector of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, his jazz nose can keep him in his forward-thinking 2009 record, *Kind of Love*, suggests, his reverence for the past is matched by his enthusiasm for the future. **CHRISTIAN MCBRIDE & HIS BAND** play the **PIZZA MANAGER** this Friday, June 6, as part of the 2012 **Burlington** Jazz Festival. The **NEWPORT ALL STARS JAZZ ENSEMBLE** opens.

regional

MONOPOLI Action of the Day 10 p.m. 10 p.m. Free

HARVEY KUP The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

SAT. 09

burrito fusion area

LA LOUNGE The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

THE SITUATION The Situation 10 p.m. Free

BACKSTAGE P&B Caroline 10 p.m. Free

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REVIEW *this*



Japhy Ryder, In Session

(SELF-RELEASED CD DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

For years, Japhy Ryder has ended to a noisy snarl often referred to — by this paper, at least — as pure prog. Informed by myriad influences, from prog rock to jazz, funk, art rock and beyond, the Burlington guitarist crafts dense arrangements centered on slinky grooves and flecked with playful attitude. And yet, at times these compositions bear an uncanny resemblance to the funk-heavy, mismatched string of classic post-soundtracks. Picture King Crimson scoring “Debbie Does It All” and you’re in the ballpark. OK, maybe don’t picture it, but... or let’s move on.

While the band’s cheeky musical forays are entertaining, focusing on these only tells part of the story. Digging deeper into Japhy Ryder’s increasingly impressive catalog reveals a band with determined musical conviction, profound curiosity and the wealth of talent to match. On their latest full length, *In Session*, Japhy Ryder shed suburban showmanship to favor his substantial solo tapestry that ripens in an airy breeze of transcending melodies and deep, thoughtful grooves. That’s not to say JR has abandoned their lushne frictions. They haven’t. But instead weaving subtle, in Session is a wonderful effort drench with artistic introspection, dynamic performances and compelling compositions.

The songs that make up the album were written over a period of four years by trumpeter, keyboardist and bandleader Will Andrews. Each began life as a simple sketch on a drum

machine, before being fleshed out by the rest of the group. The initial intent of the creative session was to record live tracks for an episode of the “Exposure” show on WRUV 90.3 FM. All of these factors converge to inform the record’s distinctly loopy style and atmosphere.

“Japhy Prologue” opens the record as bloom of sleepy, reverberated keyboard and guitar that up to lock over an insistent slow-jam bass and drums groove. “Tears” follows and features Andrews’ soulful bass writing over a propulsive and spastic trip-hop beat that perfectly transitions into the boom-bap house of the next cut, “Corfeuse.”

Andrews is particularly impressive and plays with uncommon restraint and nuance throughout. But it is Session is an ensemble piece, particularly evidenced by cuts such as “El Casapista” and the longest cut of “Last Night.”

Beyond Andrews’ pure artistry, Japhy Ryder unites with several similarly driven. Drummer Jason Thorne and percussionist Matt Deane form a slippery rhythmic juggernaut, with Thorne’s rubbery bassline a worthy foil. Meanwhile, each of the band’s guitar shimmers patiently, lying in wait before exploding to the fore.

Japhy Ryder play Red Square on Wednesday, June 6, and again at Radio Room on Saturday, June 9, both in Burlington.

DAN HOLLES

John Gillette & Sarah Mittlefehldt, Old Field Pines

(SELF-RELEASED CD DIGITAL DOWNLOAD)

Where have John Gillette and Sarah Mittlefehldt been hiding? The *Poultry* band pair are accomplished as a true kind of instruments, and sound as though they’ve been playing original, soulful acoustic music for much longer than the term “Americana” has been around. On *Old Field Pines*, an album that Gillette and Mittlefehldt recorded close to home this year at Southview Arts in Middlefield Springs, they serve up 11 original songs that sound like old

friends. This is comfortable indie-band music, well sung and tastefully timbre.

It’s hard to describe, exactly, the style of music on this disc. The arrangements sound old-timey at times, bluegrass at others, and twee-pick-drones now and then. Gillette wrote all the originals and sings lead in a smooth voice. Mittlefehldt’s effervescent harmonies make the sound all the richer. The album’s only cover, “The Gates of Paradise” by David Byrne, is brought right home to Rutland County by as if Gillette and Mittlefehldt had the song with a magic wand borrowed from Gilian Welch and David Rawlings.

“She’s Leaving the Farm for the City” is a new-old tale of farm life and heartbreak, and has the simplicity of an A.P. Carter chorus. “That’s What I’ll Do” shows off everything about husband-and-wife team do well, including fast-fingering and a catchy groove. And the song has my favorite two-line bridge of the year: “And when we get that winter-time break / I’ll catch the next flight to New Zealand.”



Mittlefehldt sings lead on “Ten Thousand Lacs,” and she’s just as pleasurable to listen to up front as she is providing harmony lines.

Ryan Dubois, who recorded and mastered the album, gives a brilliant young soundman, he shows great sensitivity for acoustic music despite his own rock and punk leanings. The second on *Old Field Pines* is spacious and warm. There’s a lot going on musically so each track, and the balance between the two is very strong and multiple vocal track is gloriously misaligned throughout.

This music was me over. You can check them out yourself when Gillette and Mittlefehldt perform live every Tuesday at the Back to Vermont Pub in Burlington.

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The Artist as Voyager

Ed Epstein, Vermont Supreme Court Lobby

It is an exhibit of paintings in the Vermont Supreme Court Lobby. Montpelier artist Ed Epstein includes two images a painter might use, from 1953 titled "Self-portrait, Route 44, Indians" in which the young Ed stands strapping a laptop next to a 1930s-era, round-bumper car at a roadside picnic area; and another of more contemporary voyage. In the latter, Epstein has painted his lined, bespectacled face partially in shadow, as if not quite wanting us to look him in the eye.

The presence of two self-portraits would not necessarily be significant in a show of works whose subject matter spans years and locales, even though this exhibit is called "Recent Portraits."

REVIEW

But these two works do bookend, at least conceptually, Epstein's unusual life journey. That "New Yorker" by birth, Vermont by choice, artist has released more collages than most in his drizzle of mountains, woodlands, designer, beachside, studio — he spent eight years living aboard a 35-foot schooner he built himself, until a collision with an earnest shopping customer put an end to both the boat and his seafaring lifestyle.

For more than four decades, Epstein says, he stopped painting — though he never ceased drawing. While living in Trinidad, he writes on his website, he discovered the black sketchbook and learned to draw light.

When Epstein picked up the brush again two years ago, back home in Vermont, his sketchpad studies served him well; his paintings are studies in discreet expression, and in varieties of light — the dusky skies of early evening, the fallow of sunlight on water, white window light falling on apricot blossoms, the lamp-lit face Epstein does it with saturated color, and with strokes of acrylic he richly layered that the pigment resembles oil paints.

Epstein's exhibit includes no fewer than 45 portraits — friends all, many of them deceased of central Vermont. To recognize them is to recall the skill with which the artist navigates not only each subject's appearance but the in-



visible quality that makes him, or her unique. But that they are exactly no shadow, while some of Epstein's subjects seem to bask in a revealing, clear light — eyes aglow features burnished — others are darker, grayer, with hard black outlines and unacceptably hard skin

HIS PAINTINGS ARE STUDIES IN OBSERVANT EXPRESSION, AND IN VARIETIES OF LIGHT.

Regardless of one's tastes, every one of these paintings is captivating.

Epstein's years at sea — and home base in Trinidad — are reflected in his paintings of an assortment of boats, from a fleet schooner coasting the waves to a lone "davit" in the aftermath that has paved its ocean-going prize.

Boating aficionados can appreciate the spectrum of colors Epstein captures on water and sky, the relationship of craft to a fluid surface. He paints boats like a man approaching a lover, embracing both the new adventure and the responsibilities of a relationship. In "Schooner, Martha's Vineyard," a gossamer with yellow sky and teal sea, the edges of the canvas are scumbled with red, a suggestion of bloodied passion.

In his landscapes — from Italy to the islands of Vermont — Epstein ap-

proaches his subjects with a darker but no less visceral perspective. His "Hillside, Italy" is almost menacing, devoid of content but for the dark beaming of vegetation against evening sky. Epstein's "Castle Ruins, Tarras, Portugal" is beckoning even though empty.

And then there are his botanical beauties. On his website, Epstein acknowledges flower power with this warning to all who would dogmatize them: "Good luck to the intrepid painter that dares to venture into this thorny thicket!" His still-life paintings of flowers are not mere re-creation of fact but gorgeous, lush, commemorative poems to the re-emergence of life. His solid-blue vase filled with lavender white peonies is a visual sonata.

An upswing of music, that passion comes through in Epstein's exhibit, as well. But only on his website do we learn that, in the 1950s self-portrait, he was on a cross-country trip — hitchhiking, stage 13 — and met Woody Guthrie. Twenty-seven years later, he was in a chorus accompanied by Pete Seeger for a series of Folio records. But at age 14, he confesses, he set aside folk music and, "inspired by Pablo Casals recordings" took up the cello — for 35 years. Then, Epstein moved on to the steel drum, an interest echoed in some of his portraits of Trinidad musicians. He returns to Vermont players in dynamic portraits of, for example, guitarist Doug Perkins and Aero Segura.

It's too bad Epstein did not include a selection of his sketchboard drawings in this exhibit, the lively, active surfaces reveal his most candid moments. But the Supreme Court showing is a thoroughly satisfying exhibit, regardless. It's enough to take in Epstein's process with a medium that results in such masterful statements.

PAMELA POLSTON

Ed Epstein: Recent Paintings, Supreme Court Lobby, Montpelier. Through Jan. 23. montpelierart.com.

BURLINGTON AREA SHOWS & HOT

SPRING SHOW Working Chinese calligraphy and watercolor artist Lu Li's China nature photographer Carol Swain are set and co-terrace artist Carol Swain. Through July 15 at The Gallery at Pleasant Books, 10 State Lane, Burlington, VT 05401.

STEPHANIE HOLMAN THURSTON "Collecting Light," nature paintings in a 100-year-old wood house. Through June 30 at The Gallery at Pleasant Books, 10 State Lane, Burlington, VT 05401.

STUDIO GROUP SHOW Paintings, photography, clay and book arts by several artists. Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

SUMMER SHOW Works by Jeanne Hoffman, Linda Hurler, Jennifer Davidson, Susan Roper, Catherine, K. Connolly, Athena Patis, Stephanie, Ben Doherty, Karl Huser and Lisa Schmitt. Through September 30 at Market Building, Burlington, VT 05401.

TAMARA HENRY & JANE TUCKER-KETCHUM "Two Artists, Two Localities, Two Histories," large-scale, abstract works and paintings. A collaboration by both artists, currently on display at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

THE NEW PLANT SHOW Four works by artists who are currently in Burlington. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

THE NEW PLANT SHOWCASE Works by the artists who are currently in Burlington. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

WINE GALLERY Artists' Works. Living in the Vineyard. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

events

AREA ARTIST SHOW Beyond Burlington, works by a number of artists. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

ARTIST COMMUNITY SHOW Works by artists. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

BEANS AND PUPPY THEATRE: AN EMERGENCY NOVA Photographs and film. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.

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BEANS AND PUPPY THEATRE: AN EMERGENCY NOVA Photographs and film. Through June 30 at the Burlington Art Association, 300 North Main Street, Burlington, VT 05401.



Ian Costello The oil paintings in Ian Costello's "Spring" series aren't meant to represent a particular urban center — but anyone who's stepped out of a dark Manhattan subway at dawn will recognize these scenes. The buildings cast great shadows on empty sidewalks while car fumes swirl free behind a red light. Sun pours in and lights up the scene, and the city is very real. "The Spring" is the number one of the bright, city lights and snow signs that we prefer to imagine," writes Burlington artist Costello in his statement. The series is at North End Studios in Burlington through June 30. Painted, "Spring VIII."

EARTHQUAKE/NOF-AWAKE "Spring flower" watercolor, ink, paintings and pencils. Through June 10. Working in a gallery in Plainfield. Info: 404-1233.

ELITE/POPE Works by a variety of artists. Through June 30 at New River Fine Art, 1000 Main St. in White River Junction. Info: 262-5925.

EXHIBITION "Tattered," a global story weaving together the threads: violence, domestication, observation and identity of the American flag is the subject of the 113. Flag Code. Through July 10 at Vermont Art Center in Waterbury Center. Info: 238-4219.

THE HISTORY OF CORNISH COLLEGE AS A SITE OF GROWTH, EXPANSION AND TRANSFORMATION
1900-1970 Photographic, film and audio-visual documents the school's evolution from a small school of students in the '50s. Through June 26 at U.S. Post Library in Waterbury Center. Info: 454-4321.



Susan Larkin and Maurie Harrington

Over 200-plus years, Flak Farm in Isle La Motte has seen a lot of action. Vice President Theodore Roosevelt was there when he learned that President William McKinley had been shot. The Flak family's limestone quarry, now a preserve, sits on the Cherry Reef, which formed almost half a billion years ago. Those days, the farm offers lodging and a vibrant summer arts and music scene. First up, paintings by Susan Larkin and Maurie Harrington, plein-air partners in the Champlain islands. In watercolor and oil, the artists capture the beauty and drama of the region. Through June 18. Pictured: "Autumn Dawn" by Larkin.

THESE EMBODIMENTS Original artwork by producing cartoonist in a variety of formats. Through June 19 at Center for Cartoon Studies in White River Junction. Info: 245-1219.

TODD PO BERRY'S PREDILEXION (RUSSIAN BIRD) "Russia in a photograph," 1900-1920. Great for newcomers and Russian Imperial subjects on this exhibit, showing the history of Russia in a Russian school which operated from 1918 to 1920. Through September 2 at Sullivan Museum & History Center Research University in Waterbury. Info: 452-2032.

WINTER VERMONT Vermont photographs developed from and give place to the region during between 1900 and 1920. Through June 10 at Festival Gallery in Montpelier. Info: 488-0381.

WALTER DUNN (1900-1920) AND WOMAN AND INFLUENCE Drawings and sketches from the artist's (1900-1920) collection of women, life

and work. 1900-1920. Through June 10 at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Montpelier. Info: 488-1787.

TYNNE/STANIS Physical paintings of nature and animal scenes. Through June 15 at Montpelier Museum in Montpelier. Info: 232-2232.

champion gallery
2012 SUMMER MEMOIR EXHIBIT & OPENING & DOUBLE FINALISTS Work by members as well as Vermont residents in the past's "Double" award-winning. Through July 1 at Champion Art Center in Rutland. Info: 755-0354.

JOHN KENNEDY HARRINGTON'S WORK Work in a variety of media, including the new profile with education. Through July 1 at Center for the Study of Sculpture in Waterbury. Info: 452-2032.

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Performance 6-8pm

Friday June 8, 2012

Re Count and Re Connect

Re Count and Re Connect features Vermont artists Kim Debra Darling, Sabrina B. Fiedler, Dana Costello, Susan Sawyer, and Susan Tetan. Open to the public through July 10th. Opening reception, 4-6pm, VCFA Gallery, College Hall.

Cut-Continuity

In Cut Continuity, three Ziegler demonstrates the process of cutting and reworking collages. The July 26 Movement, a group of local musicians, have composed pieces for each collage and will perform during the two hour performance 6-8pm. Alumni Hall.

vcfa.edu

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"Art + Soul" It's always a good idea to pair art with food. Especially when it's a benefit for Baileigh's Interiors Center, which claims out some of the area's finest local products while serving up personal suggestions to local artists. Thirty of those artists – including Katherine Minnietown, Steven Goodman, and Rick Anagnostis and Time Observer of AG Glass – have contributed work to a one-night-only show this Thursday, June 8, 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Doublet Studios Effect Knollwood & Hand in Baileigh. nibble on baguette here, discover and groove to Red Hot Chili while you contemplate which artwork by Jay Byrnes or the split10-12 between the artists and the Interiors, so everybody wins. Featured "Caret" by AG Glass.

ETHELBERG, S. T. 1990. p. 143.

LAKE STUDIES CONTEMPORARY Work by painters, Janet Fendricks, Catherine Hall and Nancy Stone, sculptor Chris Deary and Kate Pond. Free artist-led talks, 10am-12pm, 1.30pm-3pm. Adult: £5.00. Under 16s: £2.00. Under 5s: free. Bookings: 01223 353535. www.lake-studies.co.uk

STEPHEN BENTLEY There's something in the Water: photographs. Through July 31 at Gallery 500 in Richmond. Info: 474-6434.

TAKE HOME TO THE FAIR: AN ABBOTT COUNTY TREASURY Photographs of the 1911 fair by Herb Starr plus 100+ antiques, early 20th century fair posters, children's photographs and other ephemera from the Shelders collection. Through November 1 at Shelders Inc. 1000 N. Main St. in Minneapolis. ad# 1048 2/17

THE DELUSION OF DECEITS A first decelerator each of the 25 years, the museum has been open through October 21 at the end of Western Museum's illumination. Info: 434-2167

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MADISON? Artist-in-residence, John Wootter, brought his firming Mary and appears in various downtown locations as part of the annual town-wide art project. Through September 30 at Brandon Art-Store Info: 248-4000

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new events Lower Landlords of Western? painting: Through June 6 at Marble in King Don Artisan-Gallery Backroom Gallery in St. John's, Nfld. 749-0732

HAROLD ARONOW. *Colors, Lines and Dots*. 1980. 1000. Through June 17 at Emma A. Grunne Gallery in Jamaica. 706. 533. 3372.

WHEELWALL HOCHTIEF Looking back, founded in the 1900s, is integrating the late twentieth-century. Through July 7 at White Water (along in East) Hochtief's info 1-877-2077.

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1997	10,000	1,000	10.0
1998	11,000	1,100	11.0
1999	12,000	1,200	12.0
2000	13,000	1,300	13.0
2001	14,000	1,400	14.0
2002	15,000	1,500	15.0
2003	16,000	1,600	16.0
2004	17,000	1,700	17.0
2005	18,000	1,800	18.0
2006	19,000	1,900	19.0
2007	20,000	2,000	20.0
2008	21,000	2,100	21.0
2009	22,000	2,200	22.0
2010	23,000	2,300	23.0
2011	24,000	2,400	24.0
2012	25,000	2,500	25.0
2013	26,000	2,600	26.0
2014	27,000	2,700	27.0
2015	28,000	2,800	28.0
2016	29,000	2,900	29.0
2017	30,000	3,000	30.0
2018	31,000	3,100	31.0
2019	32,000	3,200	32.0
2020	33,000	3,300	33.0
2021	34,000	3,400	34.0
2022	35,000	3,500	35.0
2023	36,000	3,600	36.0
2024	37,000	3,700	37.0
2025	38,000	3,800	38.0
2026	39,000	3,900	39.0
2027	40,000	4,000	40.0
2028	41,000	4,100	41.0
2029	42,000	4,200	42.0
2030	43,000	4,300	43.0
2031	44,000	4,400	44.0
2032	45,000	4,500	45.0
2033	46,000	4,600	46.0
2034	47,000	4,700	47.0
2035	48,000	4,800	48.0
2036	49,000	4,900	49.0
2037	50,000	5,000	50.0
2038	51,000	5,100	51.0
2039	52,000	5,200	52.0
2040	53,000	5,300	53.0
2041	54,000	5,400	54.0
2042	55,000	5,500	55.0
2043	56,000	5,600	56.0
2044	57,000	5,700	57.0
2045	58,000	5,800	58.0
2046	59,000	5,900	59.0
2047	60,000	6,000	60.0
2048	61,000	6,100	61.0
2049	62,000	6,200	62.0
2050	63,000	6,300	63.0
2051	64,000	6,400	64.0
2052	65,000	6,500	65.0
2053	66,000	6,600	66.0
2054	67,000	6,700	67.0
2055	68,000	6,800	68.0
2056	69,000	6,900	69.0
2057	70,000	7,000	70.0
2058	71,000	7,100	71.0
2059	72,000	7,200	72.0
2060	73,000	7,300	73.0
2061	74,000	7,400	74.0
2062	75,000	7,500	75.0
2063	76,000	7,600	76.0
2064	77,000	7,700	77.0
2065	78,000	7,800	78.0
2066	79,000	7,900	79.0
2067	80,000	8,000	80.0
2068	81,000	8,100	81.0
2069	82,000	8,200	82.0
2070	83,000	8,300	83.0
2071	84,000	8,400	84.0
2072	85,000	8,500	85.0
2073	86,000	8,600	86.0
2074	87,000	8,700	87.0
2075	88,000	8,800	88.0
2076	89,000	8,900	89.0
2077	90,000	9,	

movies

Darling Companion

The latest from writer-director Lawrence Kasdan can be a very odd thing to watch. Not because it's about a missing dog and the glibly misanthropic people who miss him, but because every frame is a testament to disambiguation. At the same time, *Darling Companion* is so unapologetic, even if Kasdan's previous work didn't include classics such as *Body Heat*, *The Big Chill*, *Silverado* and *Cloud Gypsy*, it still would upbraid us every night.

This is what happens when a filmmaker runs out of things to say and the constraints to make film empty. *Darling Companion* offers the pointless pursuit of a privileged Denver family that involves over three days of incompetence at the Rocky Mountains. Donna Kardon goes one of her previous directorial performances in the role of employer Beth Winter. Kasdan regular Kevin Kline costs as her husband, Joseph, a book surgeon whose — yes, guess it is — Rich account of thinking about work when he should be thinking about her.

Early on, Kline's character drinks out when she spots an injured dog on the Colorado roadside. She rescues the animal and

brings him home, even though the known Joseph doesn't want a pet. Just as the director has set the stage for a domestic life-alter though, he abruptly jumps forward. "One Year Later" is when the dog has been adopted. Freeway and absorbed into the household. The creature is grumpy, sloppy and a sign of trouble to come.

Following the wedding of their daughter, the couple return to their mountain home in the company of family and friends. There in close Joseph's sister, Anne (Dianne Wiest), her boyfriend, Russell (Michael Jorland), and her son, Ryan (Mark Duplass), show much fun in this crowd. The first chance he gets the brand highlights it into the woods leaving the humans to spend the rest of the movie searching for him while simultaneously working out their money cases.

Now who have followed Kasdan's work over the years so have associated him on a career path toward managing *Little Circle Movie* as a bigger drama of *One*. I don't mean to suggest *Darling Companion* is as bad as that sounds. The track is, it's considerably worse. I haven't even gotten to the gypsy.



PET PROJECT
Kasdan stars his dog and then her mother the same from Lawrence Kasdan.

It's serious. *Freeway* is in the middle of a Lawrence Kasdan film we find a woman (Kylie Scott) who works in a restaurant for the Winters while plumping the future in her spare time. At first, many will assume this to be a comic pressure on the part of the writers — Kasdan and his wife, Meg — but, sadly, the joke's on the audience. We're to take seriously it takes us, not only her magical gifts but her boundless love of fatty windows.

There seems to stand still to be three couples (Kline heads up with the gypsy) doing everything to look for the dog. Something happens every now and then, but these incidents appear to have been pulled out of a hat. One can almost picture the scraps of paper with makeup ads is scumbled on them. "Beth breaks out when she and Joseph are chased by men." "Somebody runs into a rusty machine

man, wearing a Harvard sweatshirt." "Beth breaks out when Joseph falls and dislocates his shoulder." Just when you're certain things couldn't possibly get drier, Beth breaks out after a dream consisting of an unmarked sequence in which Freeway is menaced by wolves. Right?

Did I mention Sam Shepard came up and she'd suffered from kidney stones? If *Darling Companion* accomplishes nothing else (and it accomplishes exactly nothing), it has to represent one of the greatest wastes of talent in Hollywood history. How did Kasdan get these people to show up? Did they get the script? (One can only hope that, in the future, the film director's power won't be limited to those of permission.)

RICK KISONAK

REVIEWS

Bernie ★★★★★

When all I heard that truth is stronger than fiction, but rarely do we see that strongest treatment into some things as interesting as fiction. With his latest, director Richard Linklater (and his co-writer) pull off the feat. The true tale on which *Bernie* is based — drawn from a 1998 *Time* Monthly article by Rip Hollandsworth — is not historically "important" or uplifting. It's the kind of bizarre, local color weird yarn that one friend might relate to another on a sunny evening over too many beers. But Linklater's melting response to and charm in the movie.

The first surprise is that Jack Black gives a subtle disciplined performance in the role of former Torgie as an earnest, misanthropic, young fellow who takes a job at a funeral home in the small town of Canby, Texas, and quickly becomes one of its most beloved citizens. Clearly without any talent, and even good of boys won't hear a word against show more-angle, *Joan Rivers* here.

For so one knew Bernie once that old Maggie Niggett (Shirley MacLaine), who's known as both the town's richest woman and

its moment, MacLaine gives a minimal but as effective performance as a something almost things who clearly love people more than she loves the town. Her presence post her declines and becomes her passage — then the sole beneficiary of her will.

Here's where Linklater and Black spring a second surprise on us. From the opening scene in which Bernie lectures students on how to properly a corpse into a coffin of life, we've been primed to doubt to own side, go men overboard. But when that exterior cracks, we learn that Bernie runs a constant to much as a psychological people pleaser. And when he goes out to please his beautiful neighbor, Bernie ends up doing something quite unpleasant.

While Bernie and Mrs. Niggett both evolve beyond caricature, the corpse of *Canby* remains larger than life — gloriously so, and ironically, because many of them are playing themselves. Linklater takes a documentary approach to the story, alternating between reenactments and interviews with witnesses to the actual events, who seem all too happy to serve to Greek chorus. Most of the laughs in *Bernie* come out from Black but from the Canbyans, such as the uncon-



BLACK BLIND SPOTS
Black plays a movie star's assistant in *127 Hours* and *Afternoon in Paris*.

nor who offers a politically incorrect lecture on Texas geography and describes the jury that pronounced on Bernie as having "more justice than truth."

One of the stronger than Bernie exists in *Twelve* is the first the two people sound by him to identify — supported him so admirably, contrary to the shoeboxing DA, Danny Black Davidson (played in it by Linklater's brother, Michael) possessed to relocate his trait.

By writing to the film, the real life *Twelve* has said he doesn't use anything. Easy show it. "You can't make a dark comedy out of a murder." Perhaps you shouldn't, but people have been running after realists who complete stories since the dawn of time.

Linklater suggests that the *Canbyans* were the men who first transformed the social facts of *Twelve* into one tale with humor and release, a sketchy subplot. Perhaps, ironically a noble construction, as "no man and every, he had it coming" (in the words of a waitress pulled off an actress in the film).

Bernie can't tell the full story of what happened between Torgie and Niggett, and the script does: *Delve* for the focus finding their strange relationship but, in the story of a town and the oddball who belonged to, *Bernie* is fully answered — a tall tale that somehow happens to be mostly true.

MARGOT HARRISON

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